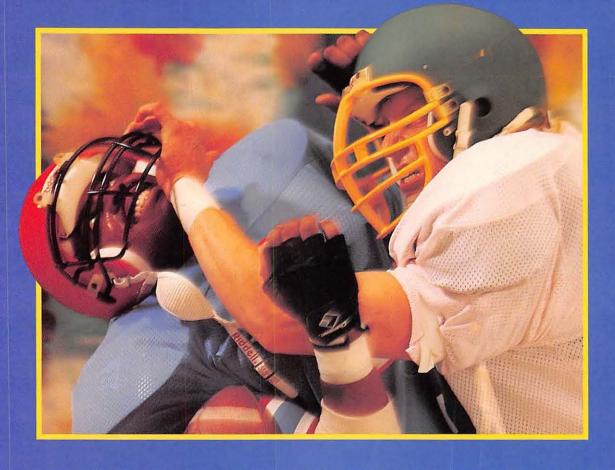


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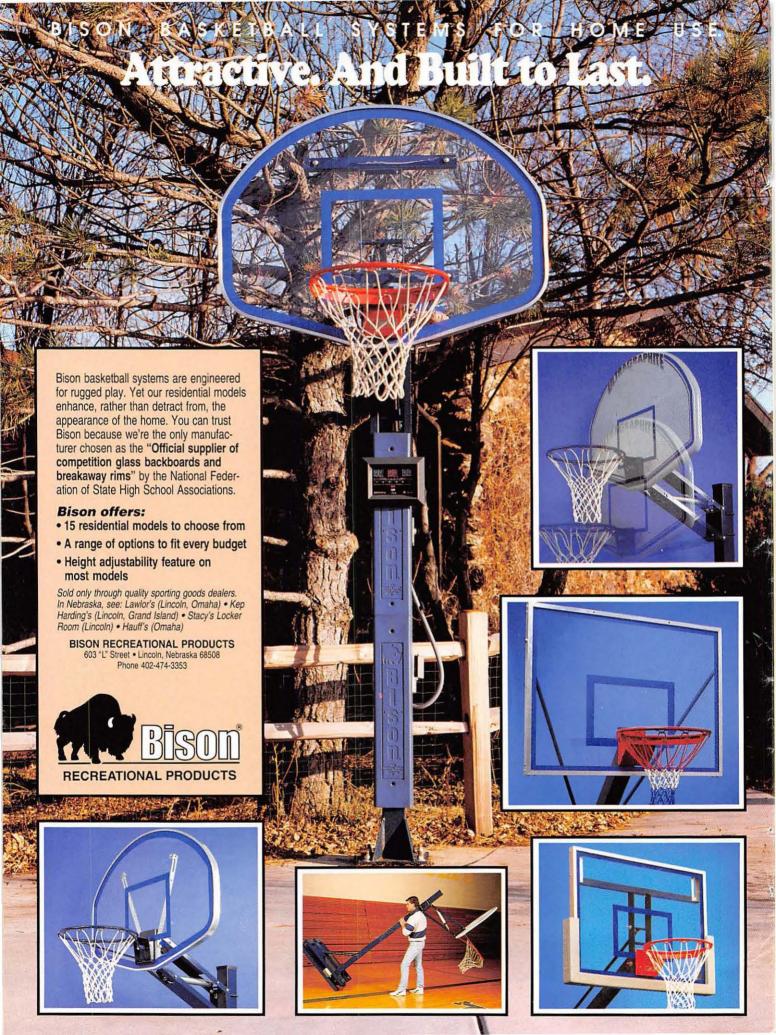
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The Life Investors



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Edition

#### ON COVER THE

Free safety Tyrone Williams (8) lets the world know who he thinks is No. 1 while celebrating with noseguard Christian Peter (55) following the Huskers' 21-7 win over Oklahoma in Lincoln.

Photo by Robert Berry

#### IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Your February Issue will be mailed Jan. 17th and will recap the bowl game as well as preview the 1994 football recruiting class.



#### FRUSTRATED WITH ESPN

It is obvious that many of the readers of your excellent publication are like so many other people in the world at this time in that they hear or read the first thing the media puts out and then don't follow the story close enough to formulate a correct opinion.

I was and am appalled at the story released by ESPN concerning Abdul Muhammad. It was another example of the national media trying to downgrade Nebraska athletics. There has been an apology made by ESPN as far as apologies go. It doesn't seem to me that a story that is aired for five to seven minutes (not once, but several times) could be covered by an apology that aired for 15 to 20 seconds on Sports Center. Abdul, the coaching staff and the university were done a major injustice and it irks me.

To Husker fans everywhere I offer this bit of advice, "Form your opinions after all the information is out and trust your own before you listen to the national media." Our players, with few exceptions, and coaching staff, both past and present, have done nothing to disgrace our program. They have represented us well.

I'm proud to be a Husker fan and I guess there are times when I take our program for granted and show bias toward them, but if you've lived out of state for as long as I have you'd understand. We've got the best program in the country, Bar-none. Come on folks... Get with the program! Keith Petrie Omaha, Neb.

#### **ABC NOT MUCH BETTER**

I am frustrated with the constant Husker-bashing by the network commentators. The latest was by the ABC staff during the Nebraska-Colorado game. Where do they dig up their stuff about the Huskers? For example, they stated that the NU fans called the Black Shirts the "Black Skirts" earlier in the season. That can't be true.

Since the game was not regionally televised, I paid to hear these bozos on pay-per-view! Too bad they don't offer the Nebraska Football Network radio broadcast as the audio portion. Dan Shoop

Bedford, Mass. See LETTERS page 44

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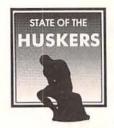
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## Bowden Gained Popularity, Respect The Old Fashioned Way

obby Bowden spent six seasons as the head football coach at West Virginia before moving to Tallahassee, Fla., where he replaced Darrell Mudra. You might say, he fell into the job.

The story goes that the day Bowden announced his decision to take over a Florida State program that had a 4-29 record in three years, he got out of his car and lost his balance on some ice in Morgantown, W.Va.

Bowden, who was born and raised in Birmingham, Ala., fell on his elbow and as he did, he

hollered to his wife: "I'll take it.

I'll take it."

That was in 1976. Since then, Bowden has transformed Florida State's football program into one of the most successful in the nation. And in the process, he has developed a unique relationship with Nebraska fans, even though his Seminoles have won against the Cornhuskers five of seven times, including three bowl victories.

Bowden first brought Florida State to Lincoln in 1980, leaving with an 18-14 upset of the third-ranked Cornhuskers. A week later, Bowden sent a letter to

the Lincoln Journal-Star commending Nebraska fans.

Among other things, the letter said: "I have been coaching college football the past 28 years and have played before some great crowds in this country. I have never seen people with more class than I saw at Nebraska last week . . . Nebraska you are a great example for Americans to copy."

Immediately after the game, Bowden described the win as possibly the biggest in school history.

Bowden's team returned to Lincoln the next season and lost to Nebraska 34-14. Florida State was still struggling to gain the national respect it enjoys now. That's why the Seminoles played six road games in

Among the six were five in a row, against Nebraska, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and LSU. Florida State won three of the five.

Back then, Bowden's Seminoles played series against the likes of LSU, Nebraska and Ohio State in which there were no home-andhome agreements. Florida State always traveled, and as often as not, won, including twice in four visits to Memorial Stadium.

The Seminoles won 17-13 in 1986. Just 40 minutes before that game, Bowden interrupted a meeting with his quarterbacks to do a live sideline interview with an Omaha television station, as he had agreed in advance.



The Seminoles found Lincoln a hard, but fair place to win.

"Wait here, fellas," Bowden said as he put down a piece of chalk. "I'll be right back."

Florida State was a women's college until 1947, and it nearly dropped football in the early 1970s because of the program's debt.

The Seminoles were winless in 1973 and 1-10 in 1974. Bowden's fourth Florida State team made a serious run at a national championship, going 11-0 before losing to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl. The Seminoles have been in the national title picture just about every season since then.

Bowden's popularity in Nebraska has diminished some of late, primarily because of his teams' three consecutive bowl-game victories against Nebraska, including the one last New Year's night, in the Orange Bowl.

The first of the bowl victories came at the end of the 1987 season, when Florida State edged Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl 31-28.

The Seminoles' only loss that season was against Miami, 26-25 in Tallahassee. With 42 seconds remaining, Bowden decided to go for the victory by attempting a twopoint conversion instead of playing the percentages and kicking an extra point for a tie.

The play-action pass was deflected, and the Seminoles lost.

Miami went on to win the national championship. Florida State finished at No. 2 after defeating the Cornhuskers in Tempe, Ariz.

> Bowden claimed the decision to go for two against Miami had more to do with practicality than coaching integrity. Sound familiar?

> After the 1989 season, Florida State defeated Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl again, decisively, 41-17.

> Nebraska coach Osborne often has said that Bowden is among his best friends in coaching. Bowden has won more games (238)

than any active NCAA Division I-A coach except Penn State's Joe Paterno.

Neither Osborne nor Bowden has been involved in earning a mythical national championship, however.

Their friendship and that national title frustration will add a special element to the 1994 Orange Bowl game. Late on New Year's night, the odds are, one of them will finally experience that thrill.

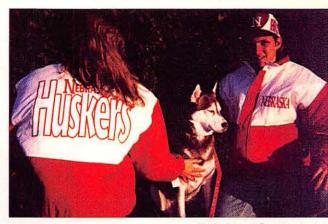
Ironically, many Cornhusker fans have been arguing that Bowden's team shouldn't have such an opportunity because of its loss against Notre Dame. Rather, they say, Nebraska should have been matched against West Virginia, which also is 11-0.

If Bowden hadn't slipped on the ice in Morgantown back in 1976, he might be among those arguing that the Mountaineers, not the Seminoles, should be playing Nebraska New Year's night.

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#### Seminoles vs. Huskers

January 1, 1994 • 7:00 p.m. (CST) • Orange Bowl • Miami, Fla. • NBC

Plorida State played in a big game against Notre Dame. Two weeks later, the Seminoles played in another big game, this

time against Florida.

And despite coming away with a 11-1 record with a schedule that had more big games than any other team in college football (so the Seminoles claim), Florida State has one more big game — a date with No. 1 ranked Nebraska in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 1.

The second-ranked Seminoles' contest against Nebraska will be the biggest game of the year. At stake is the national championship, or at

least a share of it.

"I always said I wish we had a chance at the end of the year," Florida State Coach Bowden said. "Now it looks like we've finally got a chance at the end of the year."

The Seminoles' only blemish this year was a 31-24 loss at Notre Dame on Nov. 13. At the time, it appeared FSU would get another shot at Notre Dame in a Fiesta Bowl showdown. But a week later, Notre Dame lost to Boston College and the Seminoles downed North Carolina State 62-3.





#### SEMINOLE DATA

OFFENSE: Pro Set DEFENSE: 5-2

1992 Lettermen Back: 48 1992 Starters Back: 16 1992 Season Record: 11-1

1992 Conference Record: 3-2-2 (4th)

1993 Season Record: 11-1

Bowden's Record at FSU: 165-46-3 (17 years)

Bobby Bowden Series Record with NU: Seminoles hold the Head Coach edge by a 5-2 mark.

Last Meeting: FSU put 20 points on the board first before the Huskers climbed back on the strength of a Corey Dixon 41-yard touchdown pass. The Huskers put up a gutsy effort, but could never catch up, losing 27-14 to finish 14th in the final polls.

The next week, the Seminoles downed Florida 33-21, setting up the national championship showdown with the Cornhuskers.

Along the way, Florida State also defeated Clemson, North Carolina

Among FSU's many weapons that will be on display January 1st, are tailback Sean Jackson (35), quarterback Charlie Ward (17) and wideout Tamarick Vanover (80).

and Miami. All three teams are ranked.

Florida State is no stranger to Nebraska. The Huskers got a look at Florida State's new "fast-break" offense last year at the Orange Bowl, a game the Seminoles won 27-14.

But since 1987 (the last time Nebraska won a bowl game, 30-15



against Louisiana State in the Sugar), the Huskers have met the Seminoles in a New Year's Day bowl three times. Florida State is 3-0 in that span, winning the 1988 Fiesta Bowl 31-28, the 1990 Fiesta Bowl 41-17 and last year's Orange Bowl.

This year's Seminoles may be the best team Bowden has had. Florida State has plenty of team speed on both sides of the ball, plenty of experience and they know how to win.

But the key may be stopping one man - senior Charlie Ward.

Ward runs the Seminoles' fast break offense like he designed it. Actually, it was designed for Ward. The senior, who also stars on the Florida State basketball team, completed 69.5 percent of his passes this year for 3,032 yards. He threw 27 touchdown passes and had just four picked off all year.

But Ward's a threat to run the ball as well. He gained 339 yards on 65 carries (third best on the team) and scored four times on the ground.

SEMINOLE 2-DEEP **OFFENSE** Matt Frier 5-11 194 Sr 12 Kez McCorvey 185 88 ST 67 Juan Laureano 6-5 285 So Jesus Hernandez 6-2 277 So 250 So SG 6-5 66 Lewis Tyre John Donaldson 70 6-5 265 Jr C 53 Clay Shiver 6-2 270 So 59 Andy Crowe 6-3 260 So TG 69 Patrick McNeil 6-3 284 Jr 6-4 280 Fr 65 Chad Bates 6-4 TT 60 Marvin Ferrell 295 Sr Forrest Conoly 6-6 315 So 79 TE 85 Lonnie Johnson 6-2 237 Sr 6-3 259 Jr 87 Billy Glenn FL 81 Kevin Knox 6-3 200 Sr 90 Tamarick Vanover 6-0 215 So QB Charlie Ward 6-2 190 Sr 17 6-4 216 So 13 Danny Kanell 245 Jr FB 44 William Floyd 6-0 31 Pooh Bear Williams 6-1 250 Fr TB 35 Sean Jackson 6-2 222 Sr 5-9 170 Fr Warrick Dunn 28 PK Scott Bentley 5-11 167 Fr **DEFENSE** James Roberson 6-4 243 Jr OLB 225 Fr 55 Reinard Wilson 6-2 268 Sr LDE 94 Toddrick McIntosh 6-3 **Tyrant Marion** 6-2 245 So 86 57 6-2 262 Sr NG Jon Nance Connell Spain 6-2 268 Fr 96 RDE 260 So 90 Derrick Alexander 6-5 245 99 **Dulack Guerrier** 6-2 Jr 220 OLB 10 **Derrick Brooks** 6-1 Jr 93 Chris Cowart 6-2 232 Jr SLB 36 Ken Alexander 6-4 247 Sr 6-3 215 Fr 56 Sam Cowart WLB 36 Todd Rebol 6-0 225 So 6-2 237 Sr 40 Alonzo Homer LCB Corey Sawyer Jr 5-11 175 8 5-10 153 Fr 21 James Colzie SS 11 Devin Bush 6-0 205 So 19 Mack Knight 6-2 205 Sr FS 16 Richard Coes 6-0 212 Sr 18 Sean Hamlet 6-0 205 Fr RCB Clifton Abraham 5-9 185 Jr 6-1 210 Fr Byron Capers Sean Liss 220 Fr

The best way to stop Ward is to keep him off the field.

"We have to move the ball on the ground and have some timeconsuming drives in order to be successful," Nebraska offensive line coach Milt Tenopir said. "If we let them double our time of possession, we'll be in big trouble. We have to keep their offense off the field."

The Seminoles averaged 548 yards

per game of total offense.

If Ward goes down, backup Danny Kanell is capable of running the show. When Ward sat out the Seminoles' game against Maryland, Kanell completed 28-of-38 passes for 341 yards and five touchdowns in Florida State's 49-20 win.

When Ward goes to the air, which is very often, he has a talented group of receivers to work with.

The most exciting is flanker Tamarick Vanover, a 6-foot sophomore. Vanover caught 45 passes for 542 yards and three touchdowns this year. He caught the longest pass this

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160 Sr

160 So

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300 Jr

5-8

6-4

6-5

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**OFFENSE** 

56

LT 77

Rob Zatechka Rob Zatechka LG 300 Jr 56 6-5 69 Steve Ott 6-4 270 So C 63 Aaron Graham 6-3 280 So 62 Ken Mehlin 6-0 275 Sr RG 62 Ken Mehlin 6-0 275 Sr Joel Wilks 275 Jr 76 6-3 72 RT Zach Wiegert 6-5 300 Jr Joel Gesky 59 6-2 295 Jr TE 95 Gerald Armstrong 6-2 225 Sr Trumane Bell 6-3 220 Sr 80 QB 15 Tommie Frazier 6-2 200 So 18 **Brook Berringer** 6-4 205 So FB 40 Cory Schlesinger 6-0 220 Jr 220 Sr Dave Fiala 6-1 IB 44 Calvin Jones 5-11 215 Jr Lawrence Phillips 6-0 200 Fr WB 27 Abdul Muhammad 5-9 160 Jr 5-11 200 So Clester Johnson 33 PK 13 **Byron Bennett** 6-1 180 Sr **DEFENSE** 6-2 220 Jr LOLB 84 Donta Jones 245 Sr Bruce Moore 6-6 67 Kevin Ramaekers 6-4 290 Sr Billy Wade 6-5 260 Sr 93 Terry Connealy 6-5 275 Jr NT 99 David Noonan 6-3 275 Sr 73 ROLB •34 240 Sr Trey Alberts 6-4 Darren Williams 245 Sr 98 6-1 SAM •23 Ernie Beler 5-11 200 Sr

Lorenzo Brinkley

Mike Anderson

Jerad Higman

Ed Stewart

Troy Branch

Barron Miles

Kareem Moss

Eric Stokes

Toby Wright

Mike Minter

John Reece

Mike Heins

13 Byron Bennett

· injured and questionable for bowl game

Tyrone Williams

MIKE 48

WILL 32

LCB

RCB

ROV

FS

14

8

16

10

25

6-0

6-2

6-1

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6-1

195 Sr

230 Sr

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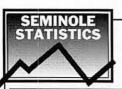
6-1 180 Sr



 Chris Fowler, ESPN: I'm not in the camp that believes Florida State will just walk all over Nebraska. I think the Huskers have to play mistake free and run

the ball well. I think they'll do that well enough to be competitive, but I don't think they'll be able to win the game. If Trev Alberts plays, I think Nebraska's got an excellent chance of playing well. Florida State 27, Nebraska 20.

- Jerry Kutz, The Osceola (Tallahassee): To me this is a game of fate for Nebraska because it's been 10 years since they brought their greatest team ever into the Orange Bowl and were upset by Miami. And it's a game of fate for Florida State because 13 years ago on Oct. 4, 1980, Florida State gained their vision in an 18-14 upset of Nebraska. Their entire program has been modeled after Nebraska. Šo, it's ironic and fateful that the first national championship contest would come against the same school they gained their vision from. I'm picking Florida State to win this one, too. Florida State 28, Nebraska 24.
- Rich Roberts, KMTV (Omaha): The Seminoles are pretty talented. With Charlie Ward playing back there running that fast-break offense and that Brooks kid on defense, I just think that they've got too much talent for Nebraska. The Huskers have been fortunate this year. Osborne has said that he's had better teams talentwise, but that these kids have found a way to win. I just feel that playing down there on what's "a neutral field" (we all know that it will be like a home game for Florida State) and with everything at stake, I just think Florida State is going to win the football game. I think Florida State's the best team in the country. Florida State 31, Nebraska 21.
- Garry Smits, Florida-Times Union: The thing that strikes me at this point about the game is that Florida State is in exactly the same position Nebraska was in 1983. I'm just wondering how much that's going to work in Nebraska's favor. I think it's going to be a damn close game. Everybody keeps talking about last year when, even in the rain, FSU beat them by two touchdowns. But I think this is a much better Nebraska team than last year. And Florida State can be run against this year. I think the Huskers can win this one. They've got all the emotional guns going for them that Notre Dame did, and I think Nebraska can run the ball as well as Notre Dame can. But I'm still picking Florida State. Florida State 21, Nebraska 17.



TEAM	STATS	
	FSU	Opp.
Touchdowns	70	15
Rushing	26	6
Passing	37	9
Other	7	0
First Downs	350	397
Rushing	149	73
Passing	184	105
Penalty	17	16
Rushing		
Attempts	470	397
Yards Gained	2,927	1,567
Yards Lost	260	385
Net Yards	2,667	1,182
Yards Per Carry	5.7	3.0
Yards Per Game	222.3	98.5
Passing		
Comp./Att.	327-469	181-376
Intercepted	6	15
Comp. Pct.	69.7	48.1
Net Yards	3,909	2,232
Yds. Per Att.	8.33	
Yds. Per Comp.	11.95	12.33
Yds. Per Game	325.8	186.0
Total Offense	6,576	3,414
Plays	939	773
Yds. Per Play	7.0	4.42
Yds. Per Game	548.0	284.5
Points Scored	518	113
Points Per Game	43.2	9.4
Interceptions/Yds. R		6/13
Penalties/Yds.	102/814	68/535
Punts/Yds.		82/ 3088
Fumbles/Lost	18/12	
QB Sacked (offense		
3rd Downs/Con.	161/90	
Kicks Ret./Yds.	21/358	67/1329
Punts Ret./Yds.	29/273	13/106

#### **FSU SCHEDULE 1993**

11-1		
Kansas	W	42-0
@Duke	W	45-7
Clemson	W	57-0
@N. Carolina	W	33-7
Georgia Tech	W	51-0
Miami (Fla.)	W	28-10
Virginia	W	40-14
Wake Forest	W	54-0
@Maryland	W	49-20
@Notre Dame	L	24-31
N.C. State	W	62-3
@Florida	W	33-21
	Kansas @Duke Clemson @N. Carolina Georgia Tech Miami (Fla.) Virginia Wake Forest @Maryland @Notre Dame N.C. State	Kansas W @Duke W Clemson W @N. Carolina W Georgia Tech W Miami (Fla.) W Virginia W Wake Forest W @Maryland W @Notre Dame L N.C. State W

## INDIVIDUAL STATS (Leaders through 12 Games)

		RUS	HINC	À		
	1	Att.	Net C	ain /	Avg.	Tds.
Jackson, S.	1	34	825	(	5.2	5
Dunn, W.		68	511		7.5	4
Ward, C.		65	339		5.2	4
Floyd, W.		63	321		5.1	5
Smith, M.		62	297		8.4	2
Williams, C.		39	266		8.8	3
Allen, C.		14	46		3.3	1
Vanover, T.		9	38	-	1.2	2
		PAS	SSIN	G		
	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds. 7	Γds.
Kanell, D.	49	36	.735	0	499	7
Stark, J.	35	25	.714	2	328	3
Ward, C.	380	264	.695	4 3	,032	27
Jackson, S.		2	100 mm 100 mm	0	50	0
		RECE	IVIN	G		
	Re	c. A	vg.	Yds.	Lng	Tds.
McCorvey,	K. 74	1	3.1	966	37	6
Frier, M.	45	1	3.3	598	72	3
Vanover, T.	45	1	2.0	542	86	3
Knox, K.	42	1	3.7	575	40	7
Jackson, S.	32	-	5.8	184	15	3
Dunn, W.	25	1	4.3	357	79	6
Johnson, L.	13	1	4.0	182	78	4
Floyd, W.	11		5.5	61	11	0
Smith, M.	10	1	0.3	103	25	2
Cooper, A.	8	1	3.9	111	35	0
Riley, P.	6		9.8	59	33	1
Messam, W	. 5		7.8	39	12	1
Ellison, O.	4	1	4.5	58	29	0
Williams, C.	3	1	0.3	31	16	0
Williams, R.	2	1	3.5	27	21	1
Ward, C.	1	1	0.0	10	10	0
Allen, C.	1		6.0	6	6	0

7 111011, 0.	1	DEF	ENSE			
	Pos.	Un.	Asst.		Int.	Sacks
Alexander, K.		66	49	115	0	0
Alexander, D.		44	50	94	1	4.5
Rebol, T.	ILB	40	33	73	0	0.5
Brooks, D.	OLB	46	26	72	2	2
Bush, D.	DB	35	29	64	1	0
Abraham, C.	CB	42	16	58	1	0
Nance, J.	NG	24	33	57	0	0
Coes, R.	FS	25	27	52	2	0
Roberson, J.	OLB	22	29	51	0	3.5
Sawyer, C.	CB	33	12	45	5	0
McIntosh, T.	DE	14	29	43	0	3
Horner, A.	ILB	21	20	41	0	0
Smith, E.	OLB	18	18	36	0	0.5
Knight, M.	SS	16	19	35	0	0
Marion, T.	DE	15	19	34	0	3.5
Sherman, T.	ILB	16	17	33	0	0
Cowart, S.	ILB	18	13	31	0	0
Cowart, C.	OLB	15	13	28	1	6
Crockett, H.	ILB	21	5	26	0	1
Wilson, R.	OLB	14	7	21	0	0
Armella, E.	NG	10	10	20	0	0
Capers, B.	CB	11	7	18	0	0
Green, J.	CB	11	5	16	0	0
Spain, C.	NG	9	7	16	0	0
Hamlet, S.	FS	10	5	15	0	0
Guerrier, D.	OLB	4	8	12	0	0.5
Colzie, J.	CB	4	3	7	0	0
Bush, D.	ILB	2	2	4	0	0
Fleming, L.	DE	1	2	3	0	0
Battles, H.	CB	1	1	2	0	0
Scott, K.	DL	1	0	1	0	0

**FIELD GOALS** 

Bentley, S.

Liss. S.

XPts Made

Yds Avg.

1256 39.3

56-64 13

PUNTING

No.

Att.

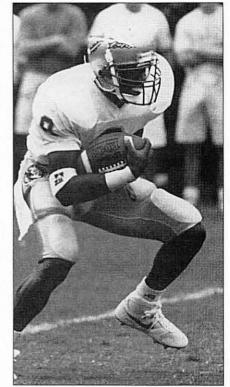
20

Long

55

Long

47



Cornerback Corey Sawyer is the latest in a long line of stellar coverage/punt returners for the Seminoles. The junior leads the ACC with 11 pass break ups.

year, an 86-yarder from Ward. Vanover was an All-America kick returner as a freshman last year.

Kevin Knox shares the position with Vanover and had 32 receptions and seven touchdowns. Split end Kez McCorvey, a junior, leads the team with 74 catches for 966 yards. He also scored six touchdowns. McCorvey shares the position with Matt Frier, who hauled in 45 passes and three touchdowns.

The Seminoles use their backs as runners and receivers, making the offense even more potent.

Tailback Sean Jackson led the team with 825 yards rushing and gained an average of 6.2 yards every time he touched the ball. He also caught 32 passes for 184 yards.

Jackson's backup, Warrick Dunn, is second on the team in rushing, with 511 yards, and he also has 25 receptions for 357 yards.

The passing isn't limited to the tailback. Fullback William Floyd has 11 receptions and has gained 321 yards on the ground.

Lonnie Johnson starts at tight end, and he finished with 13 catches for 182 yards.

The Seminoles' offensive line gave up just 10 sacks this season, and the linemen are big and quick.

Sophomore Juan Laureano (6-5,

# Quote worthy

"We proved ourselves each and every week, with the exception of one quarter against Notre Dame."

— Derrick Brooks All-America Linebacker

"They have a very good defense. They don't have four or five shutouts because they stand around and watch."

— Steve Spurrier Florida Head Coach

"I never had a national championship game on the last day of the year. We always play for the darn thing in October or November."

— Bobby Bowden Florida State Head Coach

285) and Lowis Tyrs (6-5, 250) start on one side of the line, while Patrick McNeil (6-3, 284) and Marvin Perrell (6-4, 295) anchor the other side. Clay Shiver (6-3, 270) starts at center.

Florida State's defensive line has been suspect against the run, giving up 98 points per game, but more against teams such as Notre Dame. Nose guard John Nance (6-2, 262), and ends Toddrick McIntosh (6,2, 268) and Derrick Alexander (6-5, 260) start on the line.

"They've been suspect against the rush mostly because they are a penetrating defense," Tenopir said. "If you catch them in a blitz with nobody back, you can break a big run."

Tenopir said there's only one

All times Eastern

problem of running the ball well against Florida State.

"They'll put eight or nine guys on the line and dare you to throw it. And they get better inside the 10-yard line. It's very difficult to score on them."

Part of the reason is the Seminoles' linebackers.

Outside linebacker Derrick Brooks leads the way, with 77 total tackles, two sacks and two recovered fumbles. The other outside linebacker is James Roherson, who has 3.5 sacks.

The inside linebackers are Ken Alexander and Todd Rebol. Ken Alexander led the team with

122 tackles, including 69 unassisted.
"They may be the best defense

we've played," Tenopir said.

Cornerback Corey Sawyer is the Seminole leader, recording a teamhigh 5.5 sacks, six interceptions and 11 pass breakups. The speedster is joined by Clifton Abraham, a junior who picked off one pass and broke up six others.

Devin Bush starts at strong safety and Richard Coes is the free safety.

"Overall, they probably have more team speed than any defense we've faced," Tenopir said.

Freshman kicker Scott Bentley hit 56-of-64 extra points this year and also drilled 13-of-20 field goals.

Sean Liss averaged 39.3 yards per punt. ■

#### \*Bowl Coalition Poll

TEAM	POINTS
1. Nebraska	2,987
<ol><li>Florida State</li></ol>	2,953
<ol><li>West Virginia</li></ol>	2,889
<ol><li>Notre Dame</li></ol>	2,772
5. Auburn	2,686

\* Based on the combination of the Associated Press and USA TODAY/CNN polls.

Both of the final polls contain first-place votes in parentheses, 1993 record, total points based on 25 points for first through one point for a 25thplace vote, and previous ranking

#### USA Today/CNN TODAY Football Poll

	CUAY	rootball	POII		
1.	Nebraska (41)	11-0-0	1,519	1	
2.	W. Virginia (7)	11-0-0	1,469	2	
3.	Florida St. (13)	11-1-0	1,446	3	
4.	Notre Dame (1)	10-1-0	1,369	4	
5.	Tennessee	9-1-1	1,278	5	
6.	Texas A&M	10-1-0	1,238	6	
7.	Wisconsin	9-1-1	1,089	7	
8.	Florida	10-2-0	1,075	9	
9.	Miami	9-2-0	1,049	8	
10.	Ohio St.	9-1-1	951	10	
11.	N. Carolina	10-2-0	901	11	
12.	Penn St.	9-2-0	884	12	
13.	UCLA	8-3-0	808	13	
14.	Arizona	9-2-0	728	14	
15.	Boston College	8-3-0	654	16	
16.	Oklahoma	8-3-0	501	17	
17.	Colorado	7-3-1	490	18	
18.	Alabama	8-3-1	481	15	
19.	Kansas St.	8-2-1	443	19	
20.	(tie) Indiana	8-3-0	394	21	
	Virginia Tech	8-3-0	394	20	
22.	Michigan	7-4-0	306	22	
23.	Clemson	8-3-0	257	23	
24.	Fresno St.	8-3-0	95	24	
25.	Louisville	8-3-0	77	25	

#### **BOWL MATCHUPS**

BOWL	MATCHUPS	LOCATION	DATE	TIME/TV
Las Vegas	Utah State vs. Ball State	Las Vegas	Dec. 17	8 p.m./ESPN
John Hancock	Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma	El Paso	Dec. 24	2:30 p.m./CBS
Aloha	Fresno State vs. Colorado	Honolulu	Dec. 25	3:30 p.m./ABC
Liberty	Louisville vs. Michigan St.	Memphis	Dec. 28	8 p.m./ESPN
Copper	Wyoming vs. Kansas St.	Tucson	Dec. 29	8 p.m./ESPN
Holiday	Brigham Young vs. Ohio St.	San Diego	Dec. 30	8 p.m./ESPN
Freedom	Southern Cal vs. Utah	Anaheim	Dec. 30	9 p.m./Raycom
Independence	Virginia Tech vs. Indiana	Shreveport	Dec. 31	12:30 p.m./ESPN
Peach	Clemson vs. Kentucky	Atlanta	Dec. 31	6 p.m./ ESPN
Gator	Alabama vs. North Carolina	Jacksonville	Dec. 31	7 p.m./TBS
Alamo	Iowa vs. California	San Antonio	Dec. 31	9:30 p.m./ESPN
Hall of Fame	Michigan vs. NC State	Tampa	Jan. 1	11 a.m./ESPN
Citrus	Tennessee vs. Penn St.	Orlando	Jan. 1	1 p.m./ABC
Fiesta	Arizona vs. Miami (Fla.)	Tempe	Jan. 1	1 p.m./NBC
Carquest	Boston College vs. Virginia	Miami	Jan. 1	1:30 p.m./CBS
Cotton	Texas A&M vs. Notre Dame	Dallas	Jan. 1	4:30 p.m./NBC
Rose	UCLA vs. Wisconsin	Pasadena	Jan. 1	5 p.m./ABC
Orange	Nebraska vs. Florida St.	Miami	Jan. 1	8 p.m./NBC
Sugar	Florida vs. West Virginia	New Orleans	Jan. 1	8:30 p.m./ABC

# AP

#### Associated Press Top 25

,000		. 033	"Ob .		
1.	Florida St. (42)	11-1-0	1,507	1	
2.	Nebraska (15)	11-0-0	1,468	2	
3.	W. Virginia (3)	11-0-0	1,420	3	
4.	Notre Dame (1)	10-1-0	1,353	5	
5.	Auburn (2)	11-0-0	1,343	4	
6.	Tennessee	9-1-1	1,255	6	
7.	Texas A&M	10-1-0	1,126	7	
8.	Florida	10-2-0	1,099	9	
9.	Wisconsin	9-1-1	1,033	10	
10.	Miami	9-2-0	1,030	8	
11.	Ohio St.	9-1-1	874	11	
12.	N. Carolina	10-2-0	840	12	
13.	Penn St.	9-2-0	808	13	
14.	UCLA	8-3-0	739	14	
15.	Boston College	8-3-0	695	15	
	Arizona	9-2-0	583	17	
17.	Colorado	7-3-1	508	18	
18.	Alabama	8-3-1	474	16	
19.	Oklahoma	8-3-0	438	19	
20.	Kansas St.	8-2-1	403	20	
21.	Indiana	8-3-0	334	21	
	Virginia Tech	8-3-0	263	22	
	Michigan	7-4-0	238	23	
24.	Clemson	8-3-0	148	24	
25	(tie) Fresno St.	6-4-0	34	-	
	Louisville	8-3-0	34	-	

# 86

## A Number To Remember

Plashback to preseason football practice a year ago. Tommie Frazier, Nebraska's prize freshman quarterback, is hit from the blind side as he is attempting to pass from the end zone during a scrimmage.

More accurately, Frazier is buried by a defender wearing jersey No. 86. The player is outside linebacker Dwayne Harris. The collision is with such force that one of Harris' contact lenses comes loose.

Flash forward to Nebraska's final regular-season game against Oklahoma. Late in the first half, with the score tied at 7, the Sooners have moved across midfield, after taking possession on their 14-yard line.

On second-and-11 from the Nebraska 45-yard line, Oklahoma quarterback Cale Gundy is sacked by No. 86, Harris, for a 6-yard loss.

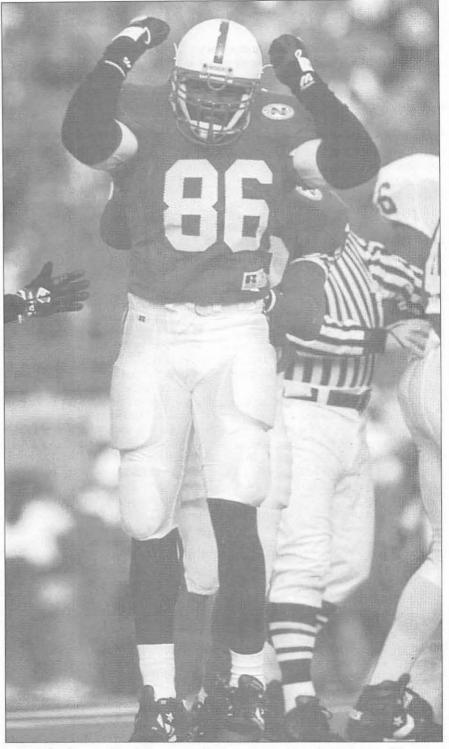
On third-and-17, Gundy again is sacked by No. 86, Harris, for a 6-yard loss. The Sooners are forced to punt, and the half ends in a tie.

To those who don't pay close attention to the Nebraska depth chart, Harris' play in the Oklahoma game might have been something of a surprise.

The junior from Bessemer, Ala., had three quarterback sacks, for 17 yards in losses. He was credited with three unassisted tackles. And he was chosen by ABC television as Nebraska's Player of the Game.

Three days later, Harris was named the Big Eight's Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts.

That didn't surprise Trev Alberts,



a Cornhusker senior and co-captain who knows a little something about playing outside linebacker.

Alberts knew Harris was capable of such a performance. "It didn't surprise me at all," he said.

Nor did it surprise Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. After the Oklahoma game, McBride explained that in the Cornhusker system, when one All-America player is sidelined, "we put another one in there, a guy who's going to be an All-American."

Harris got an opportunity to play

Dwayne Harris, expected by many to achieve All-America status next year, earned Player of the Game honors against Oklahoma with three sacks.

more than usual against Oklahoma after Alberts was sidelined by a dislocated right elbow less than four minutes into the first quarter.

Senior Bruce Moore was Alberts' backup, but when Moore went in, that changed the rotation and gave Harris additional time on the field.

"Knowing Trev went down, I had

to step it up and make this a big game for me and for him," Harris said. "I've played a bunch this year, so I knew what I could do.

"Bruce Moore went in when Trev got hurt, and I'm happy he played before me because he's a senior and I wish him all the best. I still have a year left. Everybody's head dropped for a second when Trev got hurt, but that didn't last long. We knew we had to do it for Trev because he's carried us (defensively) this year."

Alberts agrees with McBride. Harris can be an All-American next season. "He's got that kind of tal-

ent," Alberts said.

"Physically, he's far superior to anyone else. He's incredible."

That's no secret, really. Harris was a prominent member of the Cornhuskers' 1991 recruiting class. He was an All-American at Jess Lanier High School in Bessemer. He was listed No. 4 among the "Ten Most Wanted Recruits" by the Birmingham News. He was all-state Class 6A in Alabama, and the Orlando Sentinel included him on its All-Southern prep team.

Harris played tight end on offense, but it was as a defensive player that the most prominent football schools in the South pursued

him.

Auburn and Alabama both recruited him, of course. But Nebraska won the battle for his signature on a scholarship letter of intent.

Harris had to sit out his freshman year at Nebraska, however, because he didn't meet eligibility requirements under what was originally the NCAA's Proposition 48.

Subsequent NCAA legislation has made freshman eligibility require-

ments even more stringent.

Harris couldn't even practice with the team as a freshman, during the fall or the spring, while he worked in the classroom to become eligible. The year away put him behind.

Harris learned quickly enough, however, to play in eight games last season, primarily as a pass rusher in

Nebraska's "dime" package.

From the beginning, McBride marveled at his pass rush ability. Harris is quick and, like former Cornhusker defensive tackle Neil Smith, he has extremely long arms.

Combine that with his 4.78 speed in the 40-yard dash and you've got a quarterback's worst nightmare.

That Harris hasn't become a household name among Nebraska fans is, in part, a result of the position he plays. The Cornhuskers have been deep in outside linebackers. He hasn't been able to unseat the older players ahead of him on the depth chart, including Alberts, Moore and Donta Iones.

Harris is still learning. "So much of the game is mental," Alberts said.

"It takes a long time.

"Last year, the first couple of games, I didn't know what I was doing all the time, either. A lot of it is confidence and understanding of how hard he has to play on every down."

The anonymity that goes with being a backup has been compounded in Harris' case because he comes across in interviews as quiet, almost reserved.

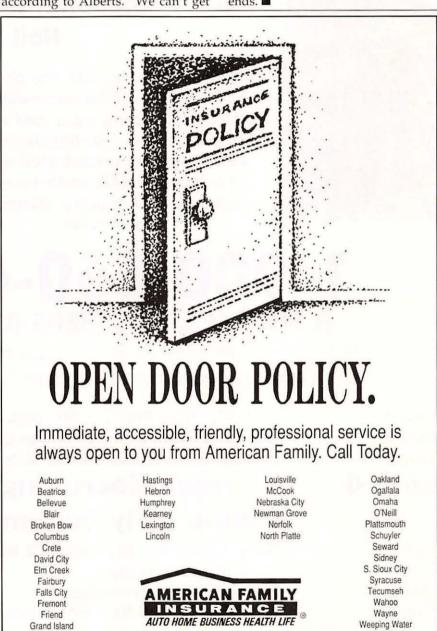
That's deceiving, however, according to Alberts. "We can't get

Dwayne to be quiet in the meeting room," Alberts said. "There's never a dull moment with him. He's always pulling some kind of trick."

Oklahoma's Gundy didn't find Harris' tricks very funny. After the game, Alberts was profuse in praising Harris. "Dwayne played great. He has a lot of physical ability, and though he sometimes has struggled with the schemes in the past, he showed today what he can do," Alberts said.

Remember the Cornhusker in jersey No. 86. "Dwayne will be an All-American next year," Alberts said.

Harris showed in the Oklahoma game that he'll fit just fine in Nebraska's tradition of outstanding outside linebackers and defensive ends.



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York

# WHO'S NEXT?



1994 ????
1992 Tommie Frazier
1990 Calvin Jones
1989 Trev Alberts
1987 Mike Croel
1985 Broderick Thomas
1984 Neil Smith

s l s h a mit rd,

During the next month the Nebraska coaching staff will be narrowing down its 1994 recruiting class and we want YOU to be there. Starting January 3rd, 1994, Huskers Illustrated will be bringing you daily reports as the February 2nd national signing day approaches.

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#### **HUSKERS DOMINATE 1993 BIG EIGHT TEAM**

ou don't get to 11-0 in college football these days without quality players. The Big Eight Champions Nebraska proved it had a slew of them as the Huskers dominated the 1993 All-Big Eight football team with six first-teamers including unanimous picks Calvin Jones and Trev Alberts, the top vote-getter on defense.

Each conference school got some representation by placing at least two men on the first team. Only Oklahoma State failed to place a second-teamer. Behind Nebraska, Kansas State did the most damage as the surprise third-place conference finisher had four players on the first team.

The Wildcats also had success in the Newcomer of the Year categories as quarterback Chad May and linebacker Percell Gaskins won offensive and defensive honors, respectively.

May passed for 2,682 yards and 16 touchdowns.

In addition to Jones and Alberts, Colorado wide receiver Charles Johnson and Kansas State center Quentin Neujahr were also unanimous first-team selections.

Johnson, the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year, won the honor as a junior. One of the greatest receivers in Big Eight history, Johnson, who once contemplated suicide, is the first at his position to garner the award.

Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier finished second to Johnson

#### **BIG EIGHT TIDBITS**

Tallest player on the first two teams:

A.J. Ofodile, MU, 6-7

Shortest: Darrius Johnson, OU, 5-9 Heaviest: Doug Skartvedt, ISU, 305 Lightest: Kevin Lockett, KSU, 165 Average Weight Offensive Line: 283

Average Weight Defensive Line: 266

Seniors: 27 Juniors: 13 Sophomores: 6 Freshmen: 2

Best represented state: Texas, nine players Repeaters from 1992: Mike Bedosky, MU; Calvin Jones, NU; Ron Woolfork, CU; Keith Burns, OSU; Jaime Mendez, KSU

Honorable Mention: Chad May, KSU; Kordell Stewart, CU; J.J. Smith, KSU; James Allen, OU; Joe Freeman, MU; Mitch Running, KSU; Brain Sallee, MU; Christian Fauria, CU; Ken Mehlin, NU; Ed Stewart, NU, Scott Harmon, OSU; Toby Wright, NU; Dwayne Chandler, KU; Tony Booth, ISU; Michael Westbrook, CU; Darryl Major, MU; Jason Oliver, MU; Corey Dixon, NU; Lawson

Vaughn, OSU; Mario Freeman, OU; Dennis Collier,

after receiving two votes. Jones and Oklahoma's Cale Gundy each received a vote.

The quarterback race for the top spot was as close as it has been in 10 years as Gundy edged out sophomore Tommie Frazier by one vote. Gundy, a senior, finished the season as the Sooners' leader in virtually all career passing records. Others getting first-team votes were CU's Kordell Stewart and KSU's Chad May.

Joining Jones at running back was Kansas' freshman sensation June Henley. Henley, voted the Big Eight Freshman of the Year, broke the freshman Big Eight rushing record with 1,127 yards. Henley outdistanced OSU quarterback Tone Jones receiving all but one of the votes.

The wideout corps consists of Johnson and Wildcat Andre Coleman, whose six touchdowns catches were only bettered by Johnson's nine.

It is only expected for Nebraska to produce some of the best offensive line talent in the country each year. This year was no different. Senior Lance Lundberg and sophomore Zach Wiegert both made the first team. Joining the Huskers and Neujahr on the front line were Iowa State's Doug Skartvedt and Missouri's Mike Bedosky.

OSU's Jason Gildon joined Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year, Alberts at defensive end. Gildon finished his sometimes spotty career in Stillwater as the school's all-time sack leader.

The beef up front included seniors Chris Maumalanga of Kansas and Husker Kevin Ramaekers. Junior Terry Connealy nailed down the third spot.

In addition to repeat honorees Keith Burns (OSU) and Ron Woolfork (CU), OU's Aubrey "The Bev" Beavers made the list at linebacker.

With only three spots remaining, the conference voters put secondary standouts and teammates Jaime Mendez and Thomas Randolph onto the squad. Colorado's Chris Hudson, a junior, captured the last position.

The kicking honors went to Iowa State's Ty Stewart at placekicker and OSU's Scott Tyner at punter. Stewart hit on 11-of-15 field goals including a pair of record-tying 58-yarders. Tyner averaged 43.32 yards a boot for the punt-happy Cowboys. ■

ALL-B	IG	El	GH1	
	EA			
OFFENSE	SI	TEA	IVI	
QUARTERBACK Cale Gundy	SR	6-0	193	OU
RUNNING BACK Calvin Jones		5-11	210	NU
June Henley WIDE RECEIVER		5-11	190	KU
Charles Johnson Andre Coleman	SR SR	6-1 5-10	185 170	CU
TIGHT END A.J. Ofodile	JR	6.7		MU
OFFENSIVE LINE Quentin Neujahr	SR		260	KSU
Zach Wiegert Lance Lundberg	JR SR	6-5	300	NU NU
Doug Skartvedt Mike Bedosky	SR SR	6-3	305 288	ISU MU
PLACEKICKER Ty Stewart	IR	5-11	178	ISU
	Ji	3-11	1,0	
DEFENSE DEFENSIVE LINE				
Chris Maumalanga Kevin Ramaekers	SR SR	6-3	286 290	KU <b>NU</b>
Terry Connealy DEFENSIVE END	JR	6-5	275	NU
Trev Alberts Jason Gildon	SR SR	6-4	240 225	NU OSU
LINEBACKER Keith Burns	SR		235	OSU
Ron Woolfork Aubrey Beavers	SR SR	6-4	240 232	CU
SECONDARY Jaime Mendez	SR	6-0	200	KSU
Chris Hudson	JR SR	5-11	190 175	CU
Thomas Randolph PUNTER	.TVI-5	Tale posses		
Scott Tyner SECO	SR ONE	6-1 TE	195 <b>AM</b>	OSU
OFFENSE QUARTERBACK				
Tommie Frazier RUNNING BACK	so	6-2	200	NU
Rashaan Salaam Lamont Warren	SO JR	6-1	205 195	CU
WIDE RECEIVER	FR	6-0	165	KSU
Kenny Holly	SR	6-0	178	MU
Rickey Brady	SR	6-4	243	OU
OFFENSIVE LINE Bryan Stoltenberg	SO JR	6-2	280	CU
John Jones	JR	6-1	285	KU
Harry Stamps Hessley Hempstead	SO JR	6-5	290 295	KU
PLACEKICKER Dan Eichloff	SR	6-0	225	KU
DEFENSE				
DEFENSIVE LINE	ID	4.4	200	ICH
Troy Petersen Shannon Clavelle	JR SO	6-4	290 270	CU
Defensive end	JR	6-1	275	KSU
John Butler Rick Lyle	SR SR	6-2	225 281	KSU MU
Ted Johnson	JR	6-4	235	CU
Mike Coats Sam Rogers	SR SR	6-0	230 250	CU
SECONDARY Darrius Johnson	50	5-9	172	OU
Kenny McEntyre John Reece	SR SR	5-10 <b>6-0</b>	180	NU NU
PUNTER Kyle Pooler	JR	6-0	186	MU



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# Isn't Trashing Nebraska **Getting A Little Old?**

m, who has yet to tak

Or is that N for No. 1?

Los Angeles Times sportswriter

Gene Wojciehowski will be welcome

scarecrow. Cornhuskers fans (literate

ones, anyway) will be angry at him for

In a broadside at Nebraska's claim

on No. 1, Wojciehowski wrote that

Huskers fans thought the N on the

in the state of Nebraska only as a

the next several harvests.

side of the helmet stood for

Post-old Ondger

Knowledge.

Regular as clockwork the annual bowl time dogging of Nebraska has started lease. Just a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T. It's not every season that a football team goes 11-0. If you want to know the truth, it's pretty dadgum (excuse the language) rare to get through a season undefeated and untied, the way Nebraska did. So how come the Cornhuskers can't seem to get any respect?

We're not talking about that fawning-all-over-you respect Florida State is getting. Hey, didn't the Seminoles lose to Notre Dame, which lost to Boston College, which lost to West Virginia, which finished with an 11-0 record just like Nebraska?

All we're asking for is some common-courtesy respect. And if not, well, as the saving goes, if you can't say something nice about somebody, don't say anything at all.

A little silence probably would seem golden to the Cornhuskers by now. They've been trashed and bashed, and trashed some more as they've moved into serious contention for a mythical national championship.

Nebraska has played its way to the top of the USA Today/CNN coaches rankings, but it has been unable to sway a majority of the 62 sportswriters and sportscasters who vote in the Associated Press poll.

One AP voter in Mississippi placed the Cornhuskers No. 8 until Notre Dame lost to Boston College. Then he moved them up, a couple of spots.

Michael Wilbon, a columnist for The Washington Post, wrote that he'd vote Nebraska No. 68, if he had a vote in the AP poll, which he didn't. Then Wilbon said, he was just exaggerat-

"A few years back, I was an AP voter. It's a good thing I no longer have a vote," Wilbon wrote in the Post. "I'd make sure, personally, Nebraska had no chance of fouling up the national championship picture."

In the same column, Wilbon observed: "Oklahoma could save us from a holiday night-

mare by laying waste to Nebraska." Obviously, that was written before the Cornhuskers completed their 11-0 regular season by defeating Oklahoma 21-7 in Lincoln.

What he had written was meant to be humorous, said Wilbon. But few folks in Nebraska were laughing.

The Cornhuskers have been assailed by members of the national media, both print and broadcast. Craig lames, an analyst on the ESPN cable television network, is among Nebraska's detractors, as are several nationally syndicated columnists such as Wilbon.

Such belittling is under-

standable in some cases.

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For example, Bill Vilona of Pensacola, Fla., wrote that most AP voters were "sick of Nebraska getting tossed around in a bowl game like rag dolls. They're sick of the power rating of the Big Eight."

Vilona could be forgiven his Florida provincialism, just as Bob Cohn of The Arizona Republic could be forgiven his support of getting a

Nebraska No. 1? We onto the ri

ika No. 17 Right, And w

MICHAEL WILBON

Some of the

mean-spirited

articles aimed

at degrading

appear to be

and not fact.

fueled by spite

Nebraska

#### Huskers: Shuck And Jive

a crtunately, people are a lot less accepting of junk than they used to Even sports junk, re's so much on TV now cre s so much of TV now ther over-the-air or le, that it's easy to just no and flick over to bething else. This, sooner later, is going to make -per-view mandatory. I have to give the people at they want, or they'll kyou off. This brings us-ollege football. We're no ger in as era when you throw Keith Jackson

fouling up the national championship picture by voting the Huskers, say, No. 63. Nebraska, you see, is the second biggest fraud in See WILBON, D4, Col. 5

WILBON, From D1 college football every single solitary season. Michigan is Fraud \$1. Together, they stack up all-Americans five deep at every position, then choke on New Year's Day. You can make the case (and I often do) that Michigan and Nebraska football Now it's no real shock that the cosches have voted Nebraska No. 2. Nebraska is undefeated and coached by Tom Osborne, a respected member of the coaching profession. To vote Nebraska third would be perceived as some indictment of Osborne and his coaching realises only the members of the collision of the members of the profession. Osberne and his coaching philosophy. The members of the media (who vote in the AP poll) hold no such allegiance to Osborne. I, for one, am in favor of a two-year has from all presas boxes any reporter who votes. Nebrasia No. 2.
Do you really want to see Florida State trash Nebrasia for the umpleenth time? Or would you like a legitimate sports event and him Wear ought.

The team we haven't mentioned, and really it waste time with, is Obs. State—only because the Buckeyes are locked intensequential Pac-10 an inconsequential pan-10 an inconsequential ganwhat seems like the 20 a row. Autum-Florida area. a row, Auburn-Florida would be interesting, p Daddy Bowden against Bowden, but Auburn is probation, (Is there a when either Auburn o

wasn't on probation?)
When the dust clear
from Saturday, I expeDame to be undefeate

Florida State-Notre Dame rematch in the Fiesta Bowl, which, of course, is played in Tempe, Ariz.

"Not only is Nebraska not No. 1, the Cornhuskers aren't even No. 2," Cohn wrote before Notre Dame showed it wasn't No. 1 or even No. 2 by losing to Boston College, at home.

There's nothing wrong with trying to look after the Fiesta Bowl's interests, and until Notre Dame went down to defeat, the Fiesta Bowl was in position to be host for what would have been billed as a national title rematch.

If there's a common basis for this criticism of Nebraska, and some of it has been so mean-spirited there probably hasn't been a basis other than spite, it seems to be that Nebraska has not enjoyed much success in bowl games under Coach Tom Osborne.

It's true the Cornhuskers have lost six consecutive bowl games. They've only won two bowl games since falling to Miami 31-30 in the 1984 Orange Bowl, in fact, and both of those victories came at the expense of LSU in the 1985 and 1987 Sugar Bowl games.

But five of the six bowl losses in a row have been against either Florida State or Miami, and the other was against Georgia Tech in the 1991 Citrus Bowl game. Georgia Tech was voted the UPI version of the national championship following that game.

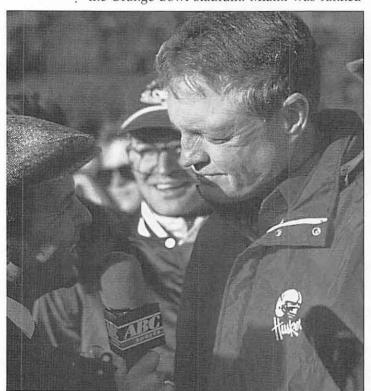
Nebraska's well-documented bowl frustration began in the 1988 Fiesta Bowl, where Florida State defeated the Cornhuskers 31-28 on a touchdown pass with 3:07 remaining in the game.

Florida State was ranked No. 2 in the final AP rankings for 1987.

The second Nebraska loss in the streak was by 23-3 to Miami, on the Hurricanes' home field, the Orange Bowl stadium. Miami was ranked

criticism being heaped his way, Tom Osborne is ready to put answering questions about the bowls behind him.

Weary of the



No. 2 in the final AP rankings for 1988 with Notre Dame winning the title.

The third Cornhusker defeat in the streak was by 41-17, to Florida State and again in the Fiesta Bowl. The Seminoles, who had lost their first two games in 1989, finished No. 3 in the final AP poll and No. 2 in the *USA Today*/CNN coaches poll.

Some of the same media types who refused to rank Florida State No. 2 in 1989 because of the early losses now are willing to vote the Seminoles No. 1 despite the loss to Notre Dame.

After the loss against Georgia Tech after the 1990 season, Nebraska fell to Miami at home again, 22-0 in the 1992 Orange Bowl game. Miami shared the national championship for 1991. The Hurricanes were voted No. 1 in the final AP poll and No. 2, behind Washington, in the final *USA Today*/CNN poll. Nebraska's only other loss in 1991 was against Washington.

The Cornhuskers' string of bowl losses reached six last New Year's night, when they fell to Florida State 27-14 in the Orange Bowl game. The Seminoles finished No. 2 in both of the major polls, behind Alabama.

Nebraska was No. 11 going into the Orange Bowl game. Despite playing well against what was considered the second-best team in the country, the Cornhuskers were dropped even further in the final rankings.

Nebraska's bowl-game losing streak should be considered in the context of the competition. Yet, Wilbon suggested, the Cornhuskers should be required to "earn" the right to play for a mythical national championship.

During an interview with a Lincoln radio station, Wilbon said Nebraska should win a bowl game this year; only then would the Cornhuskers deserve his support as a contender for the mythical national title.

Those few in the national media willing to write and speak in support of Nebraska have pointed out that what has happened in previous seasons should have no effect on this season.

As for Osborne, he's become increasingly weary of the criticism. The Cornhuskers had an open date on the Saturday Notre Dame was upset, so Osborne watched on television as Boston College opened up the No. 1 spot in the coaches' poll for his team.

"I don't want to be a fan anymore," Osborne said at the time. "I'm exhausted from watching three games (on TV). I'm tired of all the talk about polls and bowls. With the open week, I had more opportunities to talk than I wanted, and I've about talked myself to death."

Osborne appeared on CNN to talk about his team, the rankings and the bowls. Cornhusker senior outside linebacker and co-captain Trev Alberts was interviewed by James on ESPN.

But Nebraska still will be looking for national respect as well as a national title when it plays in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night.

In the mean time, "people can take their shots at us," Osborne said. "It doesn't affect us much one way or the other. It's just opinion."

And not a particularly informed opinion, at that. ■



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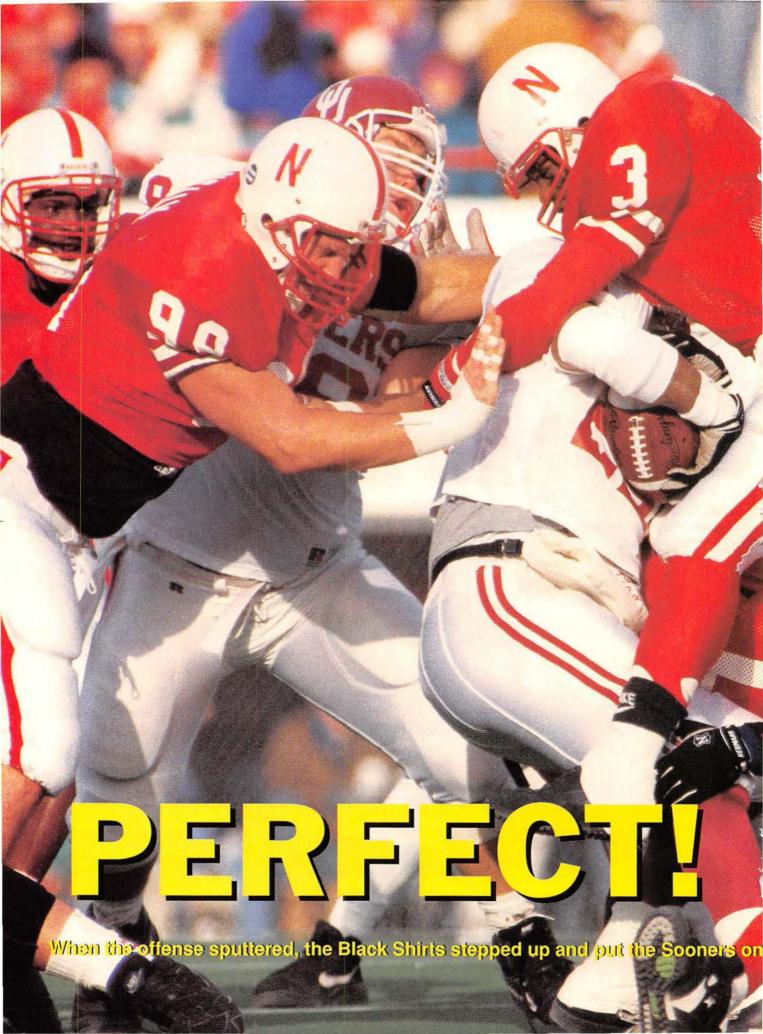
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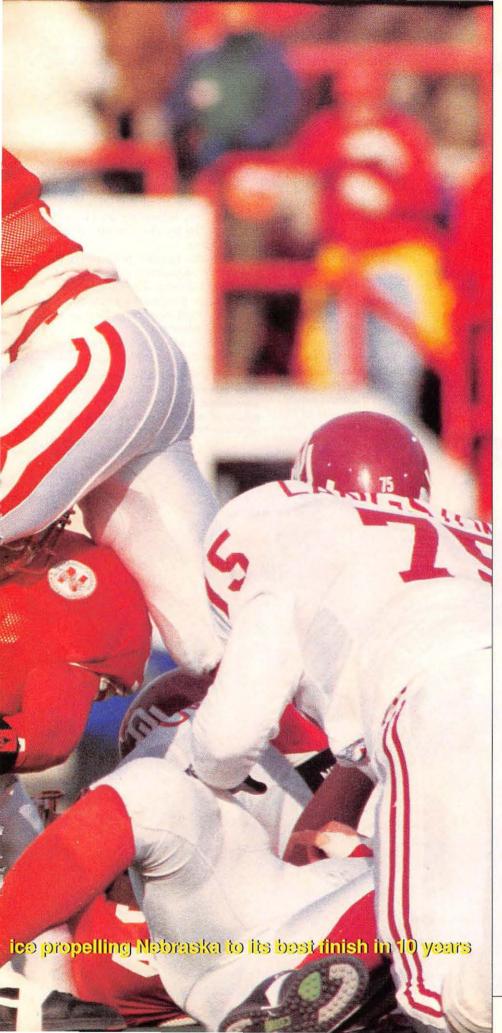


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ith 18 seconds remaining, fans ran onto the frozen artificial turf at Memorial Stadium. No amount of security could retard their advance.

Eventually, the goal posts at both ends of the field collapsed under the weight of the celebration, despite having been generously greased in anticipation of such an assault.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne stood on the sideline, his expression one of anger.

"Get off the field," he said as the human wave passed him. "What's the matter with you people?"

For an instant, the untimely presence of the delirious celebrants spoiled his enjoyment. The scoreboard read: Nebraska 21, Oklahoma 7

His team was undefeated and untied. And it was No. 1 in the nation, according to the *USA Today*/CNN poll.

After the final 18 seconds had been allowed to elapse, Osborne headed into the chaos on the field.

Dean Blevins, ABC television's sideline reporter and a former Oklahoma quarterback, followed him in hopes of getting a post-game comment for the national television audience.

Blevins had more difficulty catching Osborne than either of the defenses had in catching the opposing quarterbacks during the game. When he finally stopped Osborne, he asked: "Is it wild enough on the field?"

"It's wild enough for me," Osborne said with an uncomfortable smile. Wild enough? It was too wild.

Osborne hadn't lightened up much by the time he met with reporters in the South Stadium varsity lounge. It was difficult to tell by his body language and expression whether the Cornhuskers had won or lost.

"He was excited about the win, I think," said Nebraska senior Kevin Ramaekers, a defensive tackle.

"The guy doesn't come up to me much, but he shook my hand. He's an emotional guy. He's a funny guy."

Osborne did a pretty good job of hiding both qualities. "We're very pleased to win," he said.

It wasn't until two or three minutes into the post-game interview that he smiled. And then only

The men in bright orange sport coats were smiling, though. They

radiated Florida sunshine on a day when the windchill factor was subzero. They represented the Orange Bowl and were there to issue an invitation to the Cornhuskers for New Year's night.

The Orange Bowl had asked for a national championship matchup, and Nebraska had provided one, Osborne said as he shook hands

with Bob Epling, the president of the

Orange Bowl Committee.

For a time that afternoon, it appeared the Cornhuskers might not be able to accommodate the Orange Bowl people. "I thought in the first half we probably controlled both sides of the ball," Oklahoma coach Gary Gibbs said outside the visitors locker room, at the other end of the field.

For a half, the Sooners looked like they might spoil Nebraska's perfect regular season and its hopes of playing for a national title.

Oklahoma gave up just 78 total yards to the Cornhuskers in the first half. Were it not for three turnovers.

the Sooners might have taken control of the game before intermission. Instead, they found themselves tied at 7.

"At halftime, I felt like (if) we keep playing the same way, we win the game," said Russell Allen, an Oklahoma defensive end. "Unfortunately it didn't happen that way."

Actually, the Sooners did play in the second half the way they had in the first two quarters. Nebraska's offense wasn't much more productive in the second half, gaining 101 yards to finish with the lowest winning yardage total during Osborne's era as coach.

But the Cornhuskers once again showed their resilience, a description Osborne used at least twice during his post-game interview, and they made the most of their opportunities, scoring 14 points in 13 seconds early in the fourth quarter, to win.

"That's enough," Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier said of the scoring burst. "That's more than

enough, with the defense playing like it was. I know I wouldn't have wanted to play against our defense.

"They were causing a ruckus, and they didn't let Oklahoma do anything. The defense got the big plays; we followed with some big plays, and that was it," Frazier said.

The game-winning sequence went like this. With 1:37 remaining in the third quarter, Nebraska took over first-and-10 at the Oklahoma 38-yard line, following an 11-yard punt return by the Cornhuskers' Corey Dixon.

Nebraska needed nine plays to cover the 38 yards, converting on three third downs. The third, with 9 yards to go, produced a touchdown, on an 11-yard pass from Frazier to Abdul Muhammad.

Muhammad caught the ball near the 2-yard line, which probably

Playing without All-American Trev Alberts, the Black Shirts swarmed the Sooners and allowed only 94 yards of total offense in the second half.



Game photos by Robert Berry

would have been enough for the first down. He spun backward to the 4or 5-yard line, then twisted across the goal.

Byron Bennett added the extrapoint kick, and with 13:20 remaining in the game, the Cornhuskers led 14-

"You have to give credit to people that step up and make plays," Gibbs said of Frazier, who completed only 5-of-17 passes in the game.

"He (Frazier) was able to buy time and complete a touchdown

pass."

On the kickoff that ensued, Oklahoma's Darrius Johnson, who was covering Muhammad on the scoring pass, lost the ball when he was hit by Mike Minter. The Cornhuskers' David Seizys recovered at the Oklahoma 20.

"I broke the first (wave), and I was about to go outside. I saw a wall and maybe it gave in," said Johnson. "I don't know if I was trying to switch hands (with the ball) or what."

On the first play from scrimmage, Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones ran around his left end for the touchdown. Bennett's extra-point kick followed, and Nebraska led 21-7 with 13:07 remaining in the game.

"After the turnover, the offensive linemen were saying, 'Let's put it in the end zone in one play, and I said, 'Let's go,'" said Jones, who finished with 82 yards on 25 carries. "The receivers and the offensive line did a great job on that play."

Nebraska fell behind in the first quarter, as Oklahoma drove 74 yards on its first possession for a touchdown, scored by fullback Dwayne Chandler on a fourth-and-1.

The Sooners controlled the ball for 5 minutes and 16 seconds.

Nebraska, which managed only one first down and 18 total yards in the first quarter, nearly fell further behind early in the second quarter.

Oklahoma's Jerald Moore lost a fumble during a 47-yard run. Tyrone Williams caused the fumble, which Donta Jones picked up at the Cornhusker 14-yard line and returned to the 21.

It appeared Nebraska might turn the Sooners' misfortune into points, but on a third-and-10 at the Oklahoma 37-yard line, Frazier threw a pass that was intercepted by Johnson.

The conditions were hardly conducive to passing, Frazier said. "There were a couple of dropped See PERFECT page 28

#### ITEMS

#### INJURY UPDATE

Outside linebacker Trev Alberts suffered a dislocated right elbow less than four minutes into the game and couldn't return to action. His status for the Orange Bowl game is uncertain.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said Alberts "came off and there was a dent in his arm where his elbow should have been, and his elbow was over on the wrong side.

It was immediately apparent, McBride said, that the elbow was

"completely dislocated.

Linebacker Ernie Beler didn't play against Oklahoma because of a strained knee, and two other defenders were injured in the game. David Noonan suffered an ankle sprain, and Terry Connealy suffered bruised shoulders.

Alberts, Brenden Stai (broken leg) and backup quarterback Tony Veland (reptured petellar tendon) are the three Husker frontliners who may not play in the bowl game. Alberts and Stai have a chance.

#### CHRISTIAN EFFORT

Noonan and Connealy are both nose tackles. Their injuries provided Christian Peter, a sophomore reserve from Locust, N.J., an opportunity to play. Peter, who had played only sparingly this season, responded with four tackles, including one for a loss of 4

Said teammate and defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers: "Christian is going to be an All-American someday. He's going to be the next Danny Noonan. He's only a sophomore, just a baby."

Ramaekers and Peter are roommates. "When Christian came into the huddle, I could tell by the look in his eyes that he was going to tear somebody up," said Ramaekers.

"He looked at me and said, 'This one's for you.' After the game, I told him he had a great game, and he said he was just lucky. I said, 'Thanks for getting lucky on this day.

#### FINISHED

Twenty-nine Cornhusker seniors made their final appearance as players in Memorial Stadium: Trev Alberts, Marcus Anderson, Mike Anderson, Gerald Armstrong, Ernie Beler, Trumane Bell, Byron Bennett, Troy Branch, Lorenzo Brinkley, Zeke Cisco, Corey Dixon, Dave Fiala, Bart Furrow, Lance Gray, Mike Heins, Todd Heyne, Lance Lundberg, Ken Mehlin, Bruce Moore, David Noonan, Jim Prevette, Kevin Ramaekers, John Reece, Dean Schneider, David Seizys, Billy Wade, Austin Wertz, Darren Williams and Toby Wright.

The seniors have been involved in three consecutive Big Eight championships and 38 victories during the past four seasons.

#### **HOMETOWN HERO?**

Redshirted freshman safety Mike Minter is from Lawton, Okla. "This is my main game," he said of playing against his home state. "I couldn't wait for it. I grew up rooting for Nebraska and used to get in a lot of talking matches with all the OU fans."

Minter forced a fumble and recovered another fumble, both on kickoffs. "My goal was to make a big play on the kickoff team," he said. It came, and I'm happy. I've never felt like this

before."

#### WINGING A RECORD

Wingback Abdul Muhammad caught two passes for 23 yards against Oklahoma including an 11yard score that put Nebraska in the lead 14-7. He is the only Husker to have caught a pass in every regular season game this year finishing with 25 for 383 yards and three touchdowns. His catches on the season are the most since tight end Johnny Mitchell (now with the New York Jets) caught 31 for 534 yards in 1991.

#### **TURNOVER TROUBLES**

OU had three fumbles and one interception compared to one fumble and interception given up by NU. Coming into the game, OU had forced 26 turnovers and converted 14 of those. Against the Huskers the Sooners were not as successful, converting neither of NU's turnovers while NU scored on two of OU's.

#### IN CONCLUSION

Nebraska finished the regular season with a 4-0 record against teams ranked in the Top 25. In addition to Oklahoma, the Cornhuskers defeated UCLA, Colorado and Kansas State.

Nebraska's 11-0 record was its first in the regular season since 1983, when the Cornhuskers won 12 in a row before losing to Miami 31-30 in

the Orange Bowl game.

For the 24th time in the last 31 games, the winner of the Nebraska-Oklahoma game had to come from behind to win. The Cornhuskers are now 3-2 against Oklahoma in games in which they were ranked No. 1 in the nation.

The victory was Nebraska's 18th in a row at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers' continuing NCAA record of consecutive home sellouts is 195.

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It was a bitter irony for Trev Alberts, Nebraska's All-America outside linebacker. The turning point in the Cornhuskers' 21-7 victory against Oklahoma might have been when he suffered a dislocated right elbow on the ninth play from scrimmage.

"Maybe that's what it was going to take for us to win today," Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said after the Cornhuskers finished the regular season at 11-0.

When Alberts, a senior co-captain, went to the sideline, his defensive teammates responded by reaching inside and raising their play to another level, said McBride.

"They pulled together," he said. Following the loss of Alberts, "it was like a night-and-day deal."

Alberts was proud of his teammates, including junior Dwayne Harris, his replacement. Harris was credited with six tackles, including three for losses totaling 17 yards.

"The way we played today, I don't think they need me," Alberts said after the game, his right arm supported by a sling that was to be replaced by a cast.

The injury occurred when Sooner tight end Rickey Brady fell onto Alberts' arm as he was trying to regain his balance after slipping on the turf. "He hit me with all his weight," Alberts said. "I felt it go."

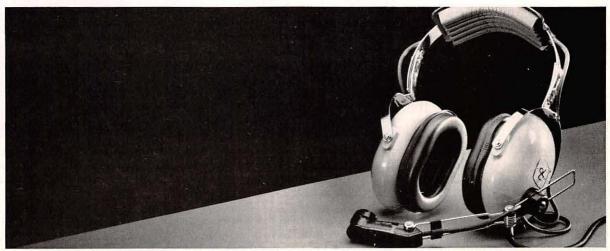
Alberts had never been injured

Alberts had never been injured seriously during his Cornhusker career. He was optimistic that he would be able to play against Florida State in the Orange Bowl game New Year's night. "I hope I'll be back," he said.

Senior rover back Toby Wright said the defense rallied after losing Alberts — as well as not having Ernie Beler, who was sidelined by a knee strain — because "we stay together like a tight-knit family.

"We have an understanding about each other, and everyone cares about each other. I've never felt that way on any other team," Wright said. "You can see the desire in everyone's eyes, and we're successful because of it."

# P L A N N I N G

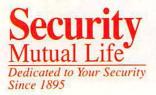


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#### PERFECT

From page 25

balls and a couple of balls that nobody could have gotten to. My hands were so cold. I had trouble getting any feel and getting a good

'The key was not to panic. We talked about scoring after some big defensive turnovers, and we got that done. We rewarded the defense with a couple of touchdowns, and now we're 11-0. What else could anybody want?"

Nebraska tied the score on its next possession, set up by Toby Wright's interception of a Cale Gundy pass and a 25-yard return.

The Cornhuskers needed four plays and a personal foul penalty to cover 15 yards. Frazier scored the touchdown from 2 yards out.

"As the game went along, we got progressively stronger, and by the fourth quarter, we were definitely

stronger," Osborne said.

"Why it happened that way, I don't know. We talked about being the physical team, hanging together and all those kinds of things. They have a lot of resiliency and a lot of resolve, and that's the thing that has set them apart from other teams."



Said Frazier: "We know how to win close games. We know if one side of the ball is struggling, the other side will pick it up. It's not pretty. But we win."

After the game, the debate continued over whom Nebraska's opponent in the Orange Bowl should be: Florida State, which would finish an 11-1 regular season the next day by defeating Florida, or West Virginia, which defeated Boston College to finish the regular season 11-0.

Trev Alberts, the Cornhuskers' All-America outside linebacker who watched from the sideline after sufWrapping up Tommie Frazier (15) proved difficult for Paul Oatts (55) and the Sooners.

fering a dislocated right elbow less than four minutes into the game, summarized the afternoon and, in some ways, the season.

"We're 11-0 and we have done everything we could have done to be No. 1. We're not whining about it, but when you win 11 games, no matter how you do it, eventually, somebody has to think you're No. 1 or you've got a chance to be No. 1," he said.

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#### November 26, 1993

#### **NEBRASKA 21, OKLAHOMA 7**

TEAM ST	TATS						
OU NU							
First Downs	14	10					
Rushing	11	6					
Passing	3	4					
Penalty	0	0					
Rushing Attempts	44	42					
Yards Gained Rushing	244	145					
Yards Lost Rushing	35	23					
Net yards rushing	209	122					
Net yards passing	85	57					
Passes attempted	22	17					
Passes completed	8	5					
Had intercepted	1	1					
Total plays	66	59					
Total net yards	294	179					
Avg. gain per play	4.5	3.0					
Fumbles-lost	3-3	1-1					
Penalties-yards	7-51	3-26					
Punts-yards	6-223	7-279					
Avg. per punt	37.2	39.9					
Possession time	32:23	27:37					
Third Down Efficiency	2-14	6-16					
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-4	0-1					
Total Return Yardage	16	51					
Punt Returns/Yards	2-16	2-19					
Int. Returns/Yds	1-0	2-32					

#### INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### RUSHING

#### **NEBRASKA**

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Tds	
Jones	25	82	3.3	20	1	
Frazier	15	37	2.5	21	1	
Schlesinger	2	3	1.5	3	0	
OU						
Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Tds	
Collier	7	21	3.0	8	0	
Allen	10	81	8.1	19	0	
Gundy	9	6	0.7	26	0	
Chandler	8	24	3.0	15	1	
PASSING						

#### **NEBRASKA**

Player	Att./Comp. Int.	Yas.	las
Frazier	17/5 1	57	1
OU			
Player	Att./Comp. Int.	Yds.	Tds
Gundy	22/8 1	85	0
	DECENTING		

#### **NEBRASKA**

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	Tds.
Bell	1	26	26	0
Makovicka	1	4	4	0
Muhammad	2	23	12	1

#### SCORE BY QUARTER

OU	7	0 (	0 0	<b>—</b> 7
NU	0	7 (	14	<u> </u>
ou				
Player	No.	Yds.	Long	Tds.
Warren	1	10	10	0
Penny	2	20	21	0
Chandler	1	8	8	0
MIIIs	2	35	23	0

FIELD GOALS

#### **NEBRASKA**

Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
Bennett	0	0	0
OU			
Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
Blanton	1	0	44WL
	P	UNTING	

#### NEBRASKA

MEDITACINA							
Player	No.	Avg.	Yds.	Long			
Bennett	7	39.9	279	51			
OU							
Player	No.	Avg.	Yds.	Long			
Blanton	6	37.2	223	44			

#### **DEFENSIVE STATS**

#### NEBRASKA

Identes							
Player	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Int.			
Anderson	4	5	0	0			
Wright	3	5	0	1			
Reece	2	5	0	0			
Harris, D.	5	2	3	0			
Williams, T.	3	3	0	0			
Dumas	2	4	0	0			
Miles	2	3	0	0			
Ramaekers	3	2	1	0			
Jones, D.	1	4	0	0			
Peter	3	1	0	0			
Brinkley	2	2	0	0			
Connealy	1	3	0	0			
OU							

	Tac	kles		
Player	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Int.
Coats	4	6	0	0
Campbell	3	3	0	0
Jones, C.	3	3	0	0
Oatts	2	4	1	0
Beavers	3	2	1	0
DeQuasie	3	2	0	0
Freeman	3	2	0	0
Allen, R.	1	3	0	0
Simpson	1	3	0	0
Bush	2	2	0	0
Johnson	0	1	0	1

#### **SEASON STATS** (11 GAMES)

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING

		G/S	No.		Yds.	APG
Jones		9/9	185	1	,043	115.9
Frazier		11/11	126		704	64.0
Phillips		9/0	92		508	56.4
Benning		9/2	55		323	35.9
Schlesinger		11/8	48		193	17.5
Makovicka		10/0	22		165	16.5
Childs		5/0	18		105	21.0
Fiala		10/0	7		61	6.1
		PAS	SIN	G		
	G/S	Cmp.	Att.	Int.	Yds.	Tds.

# Frazier 11/11 77 162 4 1,159 12 Berringer 9/0 17 27 1 222 2 Veland 2/0 6 9 1 76 1 RECEIVING

	G/S	No.	Yds.	APR	APG	Tds.
Muhammad	11/10	25	383	15.3	34.9	2
Dixon	9/9	17	320	18.8	35.6	2
Bell	10/4	12	187	15.6	18.7	2
Armstrong	8/8	11	145	13.2	14.5	5
Baul	8/1	7	116	16.6	14.5	0
Johnson, C.	9/0	8	96	12.0	10.7	1
Benning	8/2	4	27	6.8	3.4	0
Jones, C.	9/9	7	103	14.7	11.4	1

#### DEFENSE

Alberts

Branch

G/S Un. Asst. Ttl. Int. Sacks 11/11 47 49 96 0 15

Stewart	11/11	39	44	78	1	3
Wright	11/11	43	36	79	3	0
Anderson	11/10	25	39	64	0	2
Reece	11/11	26	32	58	1	0
Beler	9/8	18	28	46	1	1
Miles	11/11	27	23	50	1	0
Ramaekers	11/11	16	32	48	0	2
Williams, D.	9/1	9	23	42	0	0
Connealy	11/11	19	26	45	0	3.5
Moore	11/3	7	19	26	0	1.5
Brinkley	11/1	9	17	26	0	0
Wade	11/0	7	16	23	0	3
Williams, T.	11/6	14	14	28	1	0
Jones, D.	10/8	6	19	25	0	1
Minter	11/0	7	16	23	0	0
Noonan	10/0	9	7	16	0	0
Harris	10/1	14	8	22	0	8
Dumas	8/5	6	14	20	0	0
Ellis	10/0	6	7	13	0	0
Colman	10/0	4	7	11	0	0
Seizvs	9/0	5	5	10	0	0

#### FIELD GOALS

Demica	PUNT	ING		
Bennett	11/11	6	11	48
	6/5	Made	AII.	Long

#### G/S No. Yds Avg. Long 11/11 42 1,896 45.1 61

TEAM ST	NU		Opp		
Total Offensive Yards			4,675		3,384
Total Plays			790		727
Yards Per Play			5.9		4.7
Yards Per Game			425.0		307.6
Rushing Yards			3,167		1,581
Passing Yards			1,508		1,803
Number of Penalties			59		76
First Downs			234		183
By Rushing			147		98
By Passing			75		75
By Penalty			12		10
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4t	h TOT
NU	115	103	85	11	8 421
Орр	50	55	28	43	166



#### Huskers Get Three Commitments

the 11-0 Huskers have turned their attention to winning a national championship in the Orange Bowl. The exposure and prestige that comes with playing for it all definitely has its advantages, but it also has its negatives.

While the Husker coaching staff begins trying to find ways to stop Florida State's high powered offense, it is also losing valuable time on the recruiting paths. Other non-bowl bound teams may get their feet in a few doors quicker, but don't look for them to step on any of Nebraska's toes.

College football is broken down into three parts: the season itself, recruiting season and spring football. Because the Huskers have reached the pinnacle game of the season, the recruiting season will take a back seat — at least for while.

However, because of the Huskers' success on the football field, their recruiting might already have a head start over some other programs. Face it, the Nebraska coaches aren't going to quit making their phone calls while they study Seminole game film. If there is a trump card to this situation it is that Nebraska still has at least one big weekend of visits in December remaining before January.

Recruiting never stops, no matter

how much success you are having on the football field.

With two months remaining in the recruiting season the Huskers already have three verbal commitments in the books — all from the state of Nebraska.

Travis Toline (6-4, 210, 4.8) of Wahoo, Neb., was the first to commit. A defensive line prospect, Toline is a project in the down line with great physical ability. He has the physique to grow into his position and a burning desire to be a Husker.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play for Nebraska," Toline said. "When you grow up in Nebraska you are always thinking about the Big Red. When they offered a scholarship I jumped at the chance."

The Huskers also nabbed two other outstanding in-state offensive linemen when Ted Butler (6-2, 245, 5.0) of Lincoln Southeast, Neb., and Brandt Wade (6-4, 265, 5.1) of Platteview, Neb., committed to the Huskers. Butler is a center prospect with outstanding potential and Wade is built in the traditional Husker offensive line mold. Both will get bigger and stronger in that great Husker weight room.

That's a great start for the Huskers and they hope to add the name of Ty Goode (6-0, 175, 4.4) of

Lincoln Southeast, Neb., to that list soon.

Goode is by far the top prospect in-state and one of the top 50 players in the country. The Huskers like him for their slot back position, but know he has potential to be an All-America defensive back, who can return kicks and punts.

Goode won't be easy to sign though. He's being recruiting by everyone and seems to have a strong interest in Notre Dame. Miami, Syracuse and Georgia Tech may get the other visits. Don't look for Goode to sign early. This recruiting battle should go down to the wire.

The Huskers have been able to recruit the state of Oklahoma with success in recent years and they are getting a look from some of the top prospects in the state again.

Diron Robinson (6-3, 245, 4.8) of Midwest City, Okla., is a prep All-American who has excelled on both sides of the ball. With Nebraska's renewed emphasis on defensive speed, Robinson may be just what the doctor ordered. However, he's even more dominant on the offensive side of the ball. Robinson is looking at Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, Miami and Syracuse.

Greg Moyer (6-4, 248, 4.8) of Stillwater, Okla., is one of the best pure offensive linemen in Oklahoma and will visit OU, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and Stanford. Russell Gaskamp (6-3, 275, 5.0) of Weatherford, Okla., is ranked by some as the best pure center prospect in the country. Gaskamp is originally from Austin, Texas, and will visit Texas along with Oklahoma, Alabama, Nebraska and Baylor.

Johnathan Brown (6-4, 250, 4.8) of Tulsa (Washington), Okla., is an imposing defensive line prospect who is still looking at several programs, including Nebraska.

Of course, the majority of the Huskers' recruiting will come on a national basis. Not surprisingly, the Huskers are in on some of the top players in the country.

Start with **Grant Winstrom** (6-4, 222, 4.8) of Webb City, Mo., who is one of the top outside linebackers/tight end prospects in the

#### **EARLY COMMITMENTS**

Travis Toline DL 6-4 210 4.8 Wahoo, Neb. Ted Butler 6-2 245 5.0 Lincoln Southeast, Neb. C Brandt Wade OL 6-4 265 5.1 Platteview, Neb.



**Travis Toline** 

		أحدا			T. COLLEGE
Ty Goode DB/W	/B 6	5-0	175	4.4	Lincoln SE, Neb.
Diron Robinson	LB d	5-3	245	4.8	Midwest City, Ok.
Greg Moyer (	DL d	5-4	248	4.8	Stillwater, Ok.
Russell Gaskamp	C 6	5-3	275	5.0	Weatherford, Ok.
Johnathan Brown 1	DL 6	5-4	250	4.8	Tulsa (Wash.), Ok
Grant Winstrom O	LB d	5-4	222	4.8	Webb City, Mo.
Michael Jackson	LB 6	5-2	240	4.7	Santa Monica, Ca.
Issiah Mageli LB/	TE 6	5-4	235	4.7	Wheatridge, Co.
Mike Lorentz	LB 6	5-4	260	5.0	Thorton, Co.
Hines Ward G	B d	5-1	180	4.5	Forest Park, Ga.
Tim Alexander G	B 6	5-1	170	4.4	Sarasota, Fla.
Mario Washington F	RB 6	5-1	185	4.45	Pinole Vy., Ca.
Jamie Day	RB 6	5-0	185	4.4	Philadelphia, Miss

PLAYERS GETTING LOOKS

country. Winstrom reminds many of the Huskers' great defensive end Trev Alberts. The Huskers are in the hunt along with Michigan, Miami and Stanford.

Another top linebacker the Huskers hope to land is **Michael Jackson** (6-2, 240, 4.7) of Santa Monica, Calif., who is set to visit Stanford, Colorado, Washington State, Nebraska and USC.

Issiah Mageli (6-4, 235, 4.7) of Wheatridge, Colo., is another combination linebacker/tight end prospect. It's a great year to recruit in Colorado with a number of great prospects. Mageli is looking at BYU, Arizona, Miami, Michigan and Nebraska.

Mike Lorentz (6-4, 260, 5.0) of Thorton, Colo., is another blue chipper from Colorado who has his eye toward Lincoln. Lorentz will visit Colorado, Notre Dame, Neb-raska

and Washington.

The Huskers didn't sign a quarterback last year, so signing one or two is a must this year. One of the better run/pass quarterback prospects in the country is Hines Ward (6-1, 180, 4.5) of Forest Park, Ga. Hines has run some option, can scramble very well and shows great touch in the passing game. Hines may stay down South at Georgia, Clemson or Florida, but if he heads elsewhere Nebraska and Notre Dame stand a chance.

Tim Alexander (6-1, 170, 4.4) of Sarasota (Riverview), Fla., is considered one of the top athletes. Some programs see Alexander as a free safety or receiver, but he wants a shot at quarterback. Those programs that give him at look behind center have the best chance and Nebraska, Georgia Tech, Florida State and LSU have promised that opportunity.

The Huskers also hope to raid California again for another great running back prospect as Mario Washington (6-1, 185, 4.45) of Pinole Valley, Calif., is ranked as one of the Top 10 players on the West Coast. Washington will visit Michigan, Colorado, Nebraska, Arizona State and Pittsburgh.

Jamie Day (6-0, 185, 4.4) of Philadelphia (Neshoba), Miss., is another outstanding running back talent looking at Nebraska. The Huskers, Alabama and Clemson will get visits.

We are just heading into the heart of the recruiting season with the Huskers playing for the national title. That status alone will benefit the Huskers in the second season.

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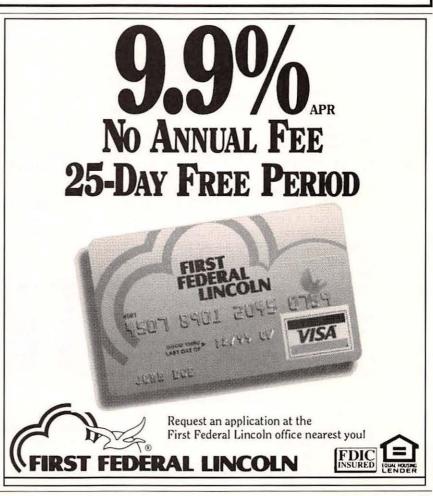
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# Notre Dame Puts Huskers' NCAA Title Hopes On Ice For Another Year

he Nebraska volleyball team's quest to earn a berth in the NCAA Final Four ended two

matches prematurely.

The Huskers concluded the season with a 15-11, 15-10, 15-8 loss to Notre Dame in the second round of the NCAA tournament in a match

played at South Bend, Ind.

Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said inexperience was a major factor in the Huskers' early exit. Nebraska, which ended the year with a 25-6 record and a No. 8 ranking, used five players extensively who were either freshmen or sophomores.

"I think we have some people on our team that let go mentally a little

bit ago," Pettit said.

The Huskers advanced to the second round of the national tournament by defeating Cornell in straight

Nebraska didn't earn a share of the Big Eight Conference title this year, a feat that hasn't happened since 1975, the year there was no Big Eight Tournament. Since then, the Huskers have won at least the regular season league title, the tournament or both.

This year, the Huskers finished second behind Colorado in the regular season. At the tournament, the Huskers again finished runner-up to



the Buffaloes.

**NU Runners** 

Theresa Stelling

Kris Ellenbecker

Sherri Elwood

Sandy Fein

Lindsey Miller

Julie Mazzitelli

Christina Blackmer Fr.

Husker setter Nikki Stricker, the only senior on the squad, was named the Big Eight's Player of the Year. She led the Big Eight Conference with a 13.17 per game average in assists. It was the second straight year Stricker was named first-team All-Big Eight.

"My teammates make the whole thing work," she said.

Husker sophomore Allison Weston, a middle blocker, was also

Class

Sr.

Jr.

So.

Fr.

Place

24

88

142

143

144

150

18:46.5

18:57.9



Coach Terry Pettit (above) saw his club fall due to inexperience, but setter Nikki Stricker (left) was still able to garner many personal honors, including Big Eight Player of the Year.

named a first-team all-conference player. Nebraska's other middle blocker, freshman Jennifer McFadden was named to the second team and was selected as the league's Newcomer of the Year.

Husker freshman Stephanie Clerc was named the Big Eight Backcourt

Specialist of the Year.

#### Stelling Paces Huskers to 20th-Place Finish in NCAAs

The University of Nebraska women's cross country team grabbed 20th place in the NCAA Cross Country Championships held in Bethlehem, Pa. Villanova topped the University of Arkansas to defend its national title.

Senior captain Theresa Stelling paced the Huskers by capturing the 24th spot overall in the 5,000-meter race.

Stelling earned All-America honors by finishing among the top 25 American runners.

"I thought Theresa ran a great race," said Head Coach Jay Dirksen. "That's the best race she's run all year. She made her goal of becoming an All-American by a lot of hard

Dirksen said he was also impressed by junior Kris Ellenbecker who claimed 88th place. "She really ran well for her first NCAA meet," Dirksen said.

One of the Huskers' top performers this season, sophomore Sherri Sutter, missed the race because of an injury. Dirksen said if Nebraska had had her services

the team could have finished four or five places higher. The Nebraska harriers, ranked 21st nationally, managed to defeat conference foe Kansas 421-471. The Jayhawks defeated the Big Eight Champion Huskers at the NCAA District V regional meet in Carbondale, Ill., on Nov. 13.

Before the race, Dirksen said he Time hoped the team would finish in the 17:12.4 Top 15, but was happy with the effort 17:56.5 his team gave against "very good 18:38.3 competition." 18:40.7 18:41.6

"Overall, we ran very well with a young team," he said.

Only two Nebraska runners had competed in an NCAA championship

The future of Nebraska cross country appears bright as the young Huskers gained valuable experience. Add recent signee Nora Shepherd of York, Neb., to the mix and the Huskers should make a run for their fifth Big Eight title since 1988.





#### VOLLEYBALL

RECORD: 25-5

S 1 lowa

W 15-5, 15-5, 15-8

Penn State Classic - University Park, Pa. (#)
S 3 #West Virginia W 15-11, 15-6, 15-0
S 4 #Pittsburgh W 15-8, 15-10, 11-15,

S 4 #Pittsburgh W 15-8, 15-10, 11-15, 15-9
S 4 #Penn State W 15-11, 9-15, 15-4, 15-17, 15-10

Arby's Classic - Lincoln, Neb. (\$)

S 10 \$Louisville W 15-6, 15-4, 14-16, 15-1 S 11 \$Wyoming W 15-3, 15-2, 15-5 S 11 \$Washington W 15-1, 15-4, 15-7

FirstTier Invitational - Lincoln, Neb. (%)
S 17 %Georgia W 15-9, 15-8, 12-15,

S 18 %Louisiana St. W 15-9, 15-3, 15-4

S 25 &Santa Clara W 15-13, 15-9, 15-3 S 25 &Notre Dame L 8-15, 7-15, 15-3, 10-15

15-5, 15-7, 15-9 S 29 Kansas St. @ Iowa State 0 2 W 15-8, 15-6, 13-15, 15-5 0 9 @Oklahoma 10-15, 15-9, 9-15, 8-15 0 13 @Colorado 13-15 15-9 12-15 15-5, 9-15

O 16 Kansas W 15-4, 15-5, 15-10 O 23 @Missouri W 15-2, 15-8, 15-7 O 27 @Kansas St. W 15-5, 15-5, 15-7 O 30 Colorado W 15-8, 15-8, 15-8

Texas Challenge - Austin, Texas (\*)

N 5 \*Houston W 13-15, 15-7, 15-1, 15-11 5-15, 6-15, 4-15 \*Texas N 6 N 10 @Kansas W 15-6, 15-9, 10-15, 15-5 15-10, 15-6, 15-3 N 13 Missouri 15-8, 15-11, 15-3 lowa St. W N 17 N 19 Oklahoma W 15-9, 15-4, 7-15, 15-4 N 23 Illinois 15-4, 15-12, 15-7

15-10 N 27 ^Colorado L 15-7, 10-15, 15-9, 13-15, 11-15

NCAA First-Round - Lincoln, Neb

D 1 Cornell W 15-7, 15-4, 15-1

NCAA Second-Round - South Bend, Ind.

D 5 Notre Dame L 15-11, 15-10, 15-8

#### **SEASON TOTALS:**

Record 25-5 Big Eight: 10-2 Home: 14-0; Away: 5-4; Neutral: 6-1



#### WRESTLING

DUAL RECORD: 2-1

Wyoming Open - Laramie, Wyo.
Nov. 13 NO TEAM SCORING

Omaha Open

Nov. 20 NO TEAM SCORING Conference Challenge - Ithaca, N.Y.

Nov. 28 Brown W 30-14 Cornell W 22-12 Clarion L 27-16

Las Vegas Invitational - Las Vegas, Nev. (\$) Dec.3-4 (\$) 5th Nebraska 74.25

Jan. 5 Clemson Jan. 7 Oklahoma St.

Great Plains Open

Jan. 8 Jan. 15 Indiana

National Dual Meet Championships

National Dual Meet Chamionships

Jan. 23

Jan. 30 vs. Oklahoma Feb. 3 @ Minnesota 6 @lowa St. Feb. Feb. 12 @Wyoming Feb. 16 Missouri Feb. 19 Northern Iowa

Big Eight Championships

Mar.



#### MEN'S GYMNASTICS RECORD: 2-0

Dec. 3-4 1st Nebraska 275.50 2nd Air Force 250.85 3rd Iowa State 217.35

Iowa State/Oklahoma - Ames, Iowa

Jan. 29

U.S. Winter Cup Chall. - Colo. Springs, Co.

Feb. 4-5

Feb. 12 @Minnesota

Iowa State/Oklahoma - Norman, Okla.

Feb. 19

Feb. 27 New Mexico



#### MEN'S SWIMMING RECORD: 1-1

 Nov.
 6
 S. Dakota
 W
 134-99

 Nov.
 14
 SMU (at OK City)
 L
 141-102

 Minnesota Invit. - Minneapolis, Minn.

 Nov.
 19-21
 Nebraska
 6th

Texas Invit. - Austin, Texas

Dec. 3-5 NO TEAM SCORING KEPT Dec. 11 Iowa

Jan. 5 @UCLA Jan. 6 @Utah



#### WOMEN'S SWIMMING RECORD: 2-0

Nov. 6 Colorado St. W 141-98 Nov. 14 SMU (at OK City) W 127-116

Minnesota Invit. - Minneapolis, Minn. Nov. 19-21 Nebraska 3rd

Texas Invit. - Austin, Texas

Dec. 3-5 NO TEAM SCORING KEPT

Jan. 5 @UCLA Jan. 6 @Utah Anyone interested in obtaining tickets for home matches should contact the UNL ticket office at (402) 472-3111.

Notice: Due to printing dates some scores have not been updated.



#### WOM€N'S BASK€TBALL RECORD: 3-2

CableVision Classic - Lincoln, Neb. (\*)

Nov. 26 \*vs. Princeton W 68-51 Nov. 27 \*Pepperdine W 68-50

Nov. 30 @ Arkansas St. L 59-63 Idaho Tournament - Moscow, Idaho (#)

Dec. 3 #vs. BYU L 79-102
Dec. 4 #at Idaho W 107-74

Dec. 8 @SW MIssouri St. Dec. 10 Creighton

Dec. 12 Arkansas St.

San Juan Shootout - San Juan, Puerto Rico

Dec. 18
Dec. 28 @Northern Iowa
Jan. 2 Holy Cross
Jan. 4 @Arizona St.

Jan. 7 @Oklahoma St. Jan. 9 @Oklahoma

Jan. 14 Kansas Jan. 16 Kansas St. Jan. 21 @Colorado

Jan. 23 @Missouri Jan. 28 Southern Utah

Jan. 30 lowa St. Feb. 4 Oklahoma Feb. 6 Oklahoma St.

Feb. 11 @Kansas St. Feb. 13 @Kansas

Feb. 16 Missouri Feb. 20 Colorado

Feb. 27 @Iowa St.

Big Eight Tournament - Salina, Kan. Mar. 5-7



#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nov. 27 Texas-San Antonio W

Nov. 28 Texas L

Dec. 1 @ Appalachian St. L 81-92

Ameritas Classic (#)

Dec. 3 #vs. Ohio W 96-68
Dec. 4 #vs. Portland W 111-85
Dec. 9 @ Creighton

Dec. 11 Wichita St.
Dec. 18 @Michigan St.
Dec. 20 Florida A&M
Dec. 31 Northern Iowa

Dec. 31 Northern Iowa Jan. 3 @Iowa St. Jan. 5 Southern Utah

Jan. 8 Colorado Jan. 15 Missouri

Jan. 19 @Colorado Jan. 24 Missouri Jan. 29 Oklahoma

Feb. 6 @Kansas Feb. 9 @Kansas St. Feb. 12 lowa St.

Feb. 14 @Oklahoma Feb. 19 @Oklahoma St.

Feb. 23 Kansas Feb. 26 Kansas St. Mar. 2 Oklahoma St. Mar. 5 @Missouri

Mar. 5 @Missouri
Big Eight Tournament - Kansas City, Mo.
Mar. 11

#### Beck Signs One of Wisconsin's Top Hoops Stars

The women's basketball program was able to get the signature of one of the top players in Wisconsin. Anna DeForge of Niagra, Wis., signed during the early signing

period and will play for the Huskers next fall.

DeForge, the daughter of Roger and Rosemary DeForge, is a senior at Niagra High School and is considered by several scouting services to be one of the top five basketball players in the state. Last season, she helped her team to a 24-3 record and a second-place finish at the state Division IV Championships. The 5-foot-11 guard averaged 28 points per game last year and has a three-year scoring total of 1,831 points.

"We are very pleased to have Anna sign with us," said NU Head Coach Angela Beck. "We feel that she is the top player coming out of Wisconsin and she will add a creative style to Nebraska. She is a tall guard who can shoot the three, and she is both physically and mentally

"She is a quality competitor and we believe that she

will keep Nebraska winning."

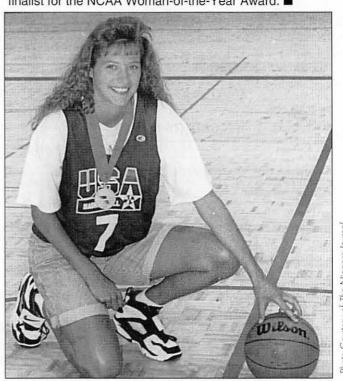
DeForge was recruited by over 100 schools and narrowed her choices to Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Loyola (Chicago) and Illinois before selecting Nebraska.

"I am happy to have made the choice to attend Nebraska," said the senior. "I was impressed with the players and coaches, and felt that the academic support was great."

In other related news the honors keep pouring in for former Nebraska All-American Karen Jennings. She was recently selected as one of eight student-athletes from winter and spring sports as finalists for this year's NCAA

Today's Top Six award.

Jenning, who won the 1993 Wade Trophy, is also a finalist for the NCAA Woman-of-the-Year Award. ■



Anna DeForge picked the Huskers over Big Eight rivals Colorado and Missouri.

#### TRACK UNVEILS HALL OF FAME, SEEKS HELP

The University of Nebraska Track and Field Hall of Fame has finally become a reality. Located in the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the hall contains memorabilia items (as early as 1912) that has been donated by families of former athletes including sweaters, jerseys, medals, track shoes, programs and more.

Walls inside the structure will be filled with pictures, biographies and certificates of outstanding athletes. Special recognition is given to Olympic medalists, Olympians, world records and world bests, national champions, outstanding academic achievements and past coaches.

The hall is looking to add to its collection. Anyone with UNL track memorabilia is asked to contact Dani Willet at (402) 472-7039. There are also memberships to the Relay Club available to interested parties. Contact the track office at (402) 472-6461 for further details.

#### Sanders Signs Three Pitching Prospects

The Husker baseball team got a jump on its 1994 recruiting class when it received national letters-of-intent from three outstanding pitching prospects. Committing to Nebraska were lefthanded pitcher/outfielder Mike Burrows of American Fork, Utah; righthanded pitcher Dan Vardijan of Glenview, Ill.; and lefthanded pitcher Brian Zubor of Riverside, Ill.

"We feel confident that we have our third-straight nationally-ranked recruiting class," said Head Coach John Sanders. "Our last two classes have been ranked 19th (1992) and 21st (1993) in the nation by Collegiate Baseball

and we think the 1994 class is on par with those two.

"Burrows was the best pitcher/outfielder combo in his region and most scouts and coaches in the Chicago area maintain that Vardijan is the top righthanded pitching prospect. Zuber is the top lefthanded pitching prospect in the Chicago area.'

Burrows, a 6-foot-3, 180-pounder who lists all-state, all-region and team MVP to his resume, was named on the Team One Top 100 list and also played in the nationally renowned Area Code Games in California last sum-

Last year in American Legion ball, the lefthander hit .512 with 10 homers and 58 RBI in 129 turns at bat. He also had 31 stolen bases in 38 games. As a pitcher, he was 10-0 with a 2.25 ERA, striking out 92 batters in 64 innings

He turned down offers from Nevada-Reno, California-Berkeley, Rice, Miami (Fla.), Arizona and BYU.

The 6-4 Vardijan was named all-conference and was selected as a member of the Chicagoland "Cream of the Crop." Last summer he was 8-1 with a 2.14 ERA in 52 innings. The Huskers beat out Illinois, Bradley, Creighton, Georgia and Southern Illinois for his signature.

Zubor, a 6-3, 185-pounder is also from the Chicago area and was All-Catholic League, all-area and also on the same Chicagoland as Vardijan. At Fenwick High School, he struck out 116 batters in 68 innings pitched and recorded a 1.02 ERA and a 7-2 record. ■

Photo Courtesy of The Niagara Journa

### Men's Gymnastics on Championship Role

While one Husker team had its hopes of a national title shattered, another one is already in title contender form. The Husker men's gymnastics team opened the season with two wins, at the Rocky Mountain Classic and at the Big Eight Invitational.

Those wins have Coach Francis Allen already talking about a possible national crown for his Huskers.

"We're already maturing into a national championship team," Allen said. "We fell short last year, but I've had people tell me we should have won. This year, we have everything

Gonyo Faring Well In First NU Season

Scott Gonyo is making his only year on the Husker wrestling team count early on. The 118-pound senior, who transferred from Drake for his final season after his former school dropped the program, won the individual title at the Las Vegas Invitational, one of the top meets early in the season.

Gonyo's victory helped the Huskers to a fifth-place team finish. The Huskers finished behind Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Iowa and Michigan.

Husker Coach Tim Neumann said Gonyo, who is 13-1 and ranked fifth nationally, changed his style of wrestling this year.

"He was using a soft style, meaning he would wait for things to happen instead of making things happen," Neumann said. "Now he's creating situations instead of falling into them."

Huskers Mike Eierman (142 pounds) and Tolly Thompson (heavyweight) each placed third at the Las Vegas Invitational.

The Huskers got some good news early in the recruiting wars as they signed Matt Infranca, a 118-pounder from Oak Grove, Mo., and Chris Steele, a 167-pound recruit from Hayfield, Minn.

"They are both real good students and excellent kids," Neumann said. "Both of them have wrestled all around the nation and have excellent wrestling credentials. In our eyes, there is probably not a better prospect in the nation at either weight."

"If we stay healthy, we not only should win the national title, but we could set a national scoring record as well."

> — Francis Allen Men's Coach

we need — size, depth and experience."

The Huskers have finished second at each of the past two meets, including last year's narrow loss to Stanford.

The Huskers won the Big Eight Invitational without Richard Grace, one of the top all-arounders in the nation. He sprained an ankle and will be sidelined for a couple of weeks, Allen said. Rick Kieffer also missed the meet.

Allen has built this team around four seniors, in Grace, Kieffer, Dennis Harrison and Che Bowers.

"Experience is the big key," he said. "If we stay healthy, we not only should win the national championship, but we could set a national scoring record as well. But of course, I always say things like that."

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I saw in the program at the Texas Tech game that you have a player (Brett Popplewell) from Melbourne, Australia on the team. How did he come to be on the team? Was he such a great talent that you went all the way there to recruit him? If so, why haven't I heard about him in the games? Mel Brackin Omaha, Neb.

Coach: Brett Popplewell is from Melbourne, Australia. He originally came to the United States as a foreign exchange student at Lincoln Southeast High School and stayed with Coach Chuck Mizerski at Southeast. He was not eligible to play at Southeast, but Mizerski could see that he had athletic talent and Brett became interested in walking-on at the university. He has become a very good player and we are pleased to have him.

Is is true that you played in the NFL at one time? If so, what team did you play on and what is your fondest memory?
Steve Bowder
Cleveland, Ohio

Coach: I played in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers in 1959 and the Washington Redskins in 1960-61. I would say that the fondest memory that I had in professional football was of the people I met and the associations I had with players and coaches. Some of those have remained strong to this day.

I was reading the article on Lawrence Phillips (Oct. 7, 1993) and thought it was interesting that he came to Nebraska, not only to play football, but to get away from the rough surroundings in California. Does it bother you that recruits may view Nebraska as sort of a getaway? A lot of your past players have said that one of the reasons they picked Nebraska was because it was slower paced and allowed them to get their lives together. Paul Benton

Paul Benton Kansas City, Mo.

Coach: It doesn't bother me at all that Lawrence Phillips and some other players have indicated that they have come to Nebraska because of the slower pace and more stable environment. We are pleased that Nebraska has the kind of setting where young people feel that they can best further their education and their social lives without a lot of distractions.

Calvin Jones' 55-yard touchdown reception made me wonder why you don't throw more to the running backs. Through eight games the running backs had caught only five passes. When Roger Craig was a 49er, he was the first man in the NFL to run for 1,000 yards and receive for 1,000 yards. Wayne Harding San Jose, Calif.

Coach: We don't throw to our backs as much as the 49ers because the 49ers operate a great deal out of a split back formation where each back is closer to the line of scrimmage and could release easily into pass patterns. We run out of the I-formation primarily so we can run option football by faking to the fullback and pitching to the I-back. This makes it more difficult for the backs to release quickly into pass patterns, although, we have thrown a reasonable amount to our backs this year.

Would you rather have two bye weeks or play two more games? I



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Old Mill Shopping Center 10862 West Dodge Road Omaha, Nebraska 68154 (402) 493-3500 Fax (402) 493-5134 M-F 9-8, Sat 9-5, Sun 12-5 would like to see Nebraska play two more games and hopefully one of those would be against Notre Dame. The Irish don't seem to want to play the Big Eight teams. John Kloptoski Simpson, Pa.

Coach: Our schedule is limited to 11 games each year unless we play an early game such as the Kickoff Classic. The bowl is also additional, so you can't add two games as you mentioned to our schedule. We do have Notre Dame scheduled shortly after the turn of the century on a home and home basis.

One reader wants This year you changed the to see Mike type of defense we now use. Anderson (48) and The two outside linebackers the defense wear seem to be rush ends and the black uniforms. SAM linebacker seems to be a defensive back assigned to the tight end. How will the change in formations change the type of player you are going to try to recruit to play the position? Who coaches the SAM linebacker? David Enholm

Omaha, Neb.

Coach: The SAM backer is a combination coverage man and linebacker. There are times when people operate from one back sets where the SAM backer has to

be primarily a defensive back. If a tight end is in the game, then he plays more as a linebacker. As a result, you are looking for a fairly unique athlete - one who is big enough and strong enough to play the run and yet agile enough and quick enough to play pass defense.

Tony Samuel coaches the SAM linebackers as well as the rush ends.

I'm one of your many fans on the West Coast and I don't get to see Nebraska as much as

I would like to. A few years ago you played Oregon State in Nebraska and I was wondering if you are going to play either Oregon or Oregon State here in the near future? Ryan Caroon Albany, Oregon

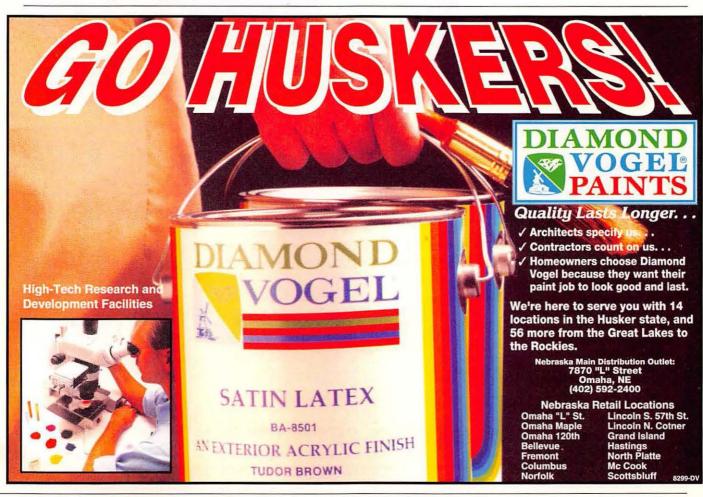
Coach: We are not scheduled to play Oregon State in the future. I believe that we are going to play Oregon in the late 1990s on a home and home basis.

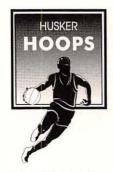
Since the defense is called the Black Shirts, why not let them wear black jerseys in a real game? I think it would really give the defense a lift. I hope you think about it, Coach. Bill Miles Louisville, Ky.

Coach: Our colors are red and white, therefore we can't have our defense wear black shirts and have the rest of our football team dressed in red and white.

What is it like to coach a Heisman Trophy candidate and how did it affect the rest of the team? Did you have to change up your game plan when Calvin Jones got hurt? Mike Bliss Omaha, Neb.

Coach: Coaching someone who is a Heisman Trophy candidate is no different than coaching any other player. We did not adjust our approach to football when Calvin Jones was hurt. Obviously we had less experienced I-backs playing, but we ran the same plays and about the same mix of passes and runs offensively.





## Huskers Rebound From Longhorn Stunner With Ameritas Classic Title

Tebraska came up 20 seconds short in its second game of the season.

"We had the game won, basically, and then we basically gave it away," said Eric Piatkowski.

The Cornhuskers led Texas 75-74 and had possession of the ball, after Erick Strickland drew a charging foul.

Nebraska turned over the ball, however, and the Longhorns took the lead, 76-75, on a pair of free throws with 16.3 seconds remaining. Texas added two more points on a breakaway following another turnover and left Lincoln with a 78-75 victory.

"We'll look back and this one will hurt," Cornhusker coach Danny Nee said of Nebraska's first non-conference loss at the Devaney Sports Center in 31 games, dating back to 1989-90.

The Cornhuskers had overcome a seven-point deficit to take the 75-74 lead on two free throws by newcomer Melvin Brooks with 1:04 left.

That set up the dramatic finish in what was only the fifth loss in 60 non-conference games under Nee.

Nebraska will find itself in similar



Junior college transfer Melvin Brooks (34) gave the Huskers needed strength off the bench with six points and four boards against the Longhorns.

situations throughout this season, particularly when Big Eight Conference play begins. "I think a lot of teams are going to play us like this," Piatkowski said.

Nee said much the same thing before the Cornhuskers opened the season with a victory against Texas-San Antonio at the Sports Center.

"We're going through people learning a new system and a coach saying, 'I know what we need to do.' What happens is, we do it sometimes," said Nee. "For us to be efficient and win in the Big Eight, in those close games that I'm predict-



## **NEBRASKA 1993-94 SEASON STATS**

(Through 5 games) Record: 3-2 • Home: 2-1 • Away: 0-1 • Neutral: 1-0 • Big Eight: 0-0

PLAYER	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ast.	TO	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
52 Eric Piatkowski	5/5	151/30.2	34-72/.472	12-25/.480	24-29/.828	29/5.8	11	16	12	3	6	104/20.8
12 Jamar Johnson	5/5	131/26.2	27-42/.643	5-12/.417	6-7/.857	11/2.2	9	25	13	2	7	65/13.0
24 Jaron Boone	5/3	146/29.2	24-48/.500	2-9/.222	4-7/.571	14/2.8	12	20	12	0	6	54/10.8
44 Bruce Chubick	5/5	100/20.0	17-33/.515	1-2/.500	15-20/.750	32/6.4	9	1	8	2	2	50/10.0
43 Terrance Badgett	4/3	71/17.8	17-28/.607	0-0/.000	4-5/.800	15/3.8	6	4	7	2	2	38/9.5
21 Erick Strickland	5/2	102/20.4	16-34/.471	5-14/.357	1-3/.333	17/3.4	15	21	14	4	12	38/7.6
33 Tom Best	5/2	91/18.2	14-37/.378	1-5/.200	6-10/.600	30/6.0	12	5	8	0	3	35/7.0
30 Jason Glock	5/0	67/13.4	13-24/.542	3-8/.375	1-2/.500	7/1.4	4	8	3	0	2	30/6.0
34 Melvin Brooks	5/0	103/20.6	11-20/.550	0-3/.000	5-7/.714	27/5.4	14	13	4	0	6	27/5.4
32 Mikki Moore	3/0	29/9.7	2-5/.400	0-1/.000	7-10/.700	4/1.3	3	0	3	3	1	11/3.7
00 Lee Steinbrook	1/0	1/1.0	2-2/1.00	0-0/.000	0-0/.000	0/0.0	0	0	0	0	0	4/4.0
03 Chad Jaeger	1/0	3/3.0	1-1/1.00	0-0/.000	0-0/.000	1/1.0	0	0	0	0	0	2/2.0
TEAM	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ast.	то	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
NEBRASKA	5	2000	178-350/.509	29-81/.358	73-100/.730	207/41.4	95	113	84	16	48	458/91.6
OPPONENTS	5	2000	145-327/.443	43-112/.384	74-116/.638	179/35.8	96	73	104	11	38	407/81.4

## **NEBRASKA vs. TEXAS**

#### **TEXAS 78, NEBRASKA 75**

Nov. 28, 1993 · Lincoln, Neb.

**Points** (35) Piatkowski Rebounds (10) Piatkowski Assists (6) Boone Steals 3 with (1)

The Cornhuskers saw a 75-74 lead disappear as Texas guard Terrence Rencher sank both ends of a two-shot free throw en route to a 78-75 Longhorn victory in Lincoln. The loss dropped Nebraska to 1-1 on the season. The Huskers opened the regular season with a 96-85 win over Texas-San Antonio.

Nebraska, on the strength of senior Eric Piatkowski's career-high 35 points and 10 rebounds, led 75-74 after transfer forward Melvin Brooks hit a pair of free throws with 1:04 remaining. With 20 ticks left on the clock, Lamont Hill knocked the ball from guard Jamar Johnson and Rencher recovered before being fouled and hitting the free shots.

On their next possession, the Huskers again lost the ball and Rencher put the final nails in the coffin with

a breakaway layup.

The game was close throughout with Nebraska leading by four late in the first half. Texas' largest lead was 58-51 with 10:20 remaining.

The Longhorns led 68-63 with 5:36 when Nebraska rallied, taking the lead (71-69) after Johnson popped a two-pointer with 2:05 left.

Sophomore Terrance

Name	Min.	FgAtt.	3ptAtt	FtAtt.	Rb.	Bk.	A.	S	Tp.
Badgett	25	5-7	0-0	1-1	6	0	1	1	11
Piatkowski	37	11-19	5-10	8-11	10	1	1	1	35
Chubick	17	2-4	0-0	5-7	4	0	0	0	9
Johnson	33	2-5	0-1	0-0	3	1	4	1	4
Boone	31	3-9	0-3	0-0	3	0	6	1	6
Strickland	17	0-4	0-1	0-1	3	1	0	0	0
Glock	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Best	16	1-7	0-0	2-2	8	0	1	1	4
Brooks	21	2-4	0-1	2-2	4	0	0	2	6
Team Totals									
Nebraska		26-59	5-16	18-24	42	3	13	7	75
Texas		29-57	8-18	12-22	31	1	11	8	78

Badgett continued his strong early-season play with an 11-point, six rebound effort.

ing we're going to be in, I think it's going to have to be about 80 percent efficiency."

The Texas game had its positive aspects, too. Piatkowski, for example, scored a career-high 35 points, hitting 5-of-10 shots from three-point range, and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

He showed the confidence gained by playing in the World University Games over the summer. "I feel I can do, basically, everything on the

floor," said Piatkowski.

The senior from Rapid City, S.D., "certainly played at a high level" in the Texas game, Nee said. "But 'Pike' can't do it by himself."

Nebraska out-rebounded the athletic Longhorns decisively, 42-31. With only one player taller than 6foot-8, the Cornhuskers are certainly going to have to be efficient at that.

Bruce Chubick, Tom Best, Terrance Badgett and Brooks will have to lead the way on the boards.

## Huskers' Sign One Of The Top Classes With Four Signatures, Including Surles In Early Period

The Cornhuskers signed four recruits during the NCAA's early signing period in November. The Cornhuskers' early recruiting class was regarded as among the best in the Midwest.

The signees include: Andy Markowski, a 6-foot-7, 180-pound forward from Ord, Neb.; Chad Ideus, a 6-7, 210-pound forward from Adams, Neb.; Leif Nelson, a 6-10, 260-pound center from Riverside, Calif.; and Chester Surles, a 6-8 forward from Saginaw, Mich.

Surles was rated as the 14th best small forward among high school recruits nationally by Van Coleman's Future Stars magazine.

"This is the most balanced recruiting class we've had," Nee said. "Getting four (early) is significant. We figure we need to get one big, older player, now, a junior college player, maybe more but at least one.

"This recruiting period has just been great. We've gotten a nucleus of instate talent. We have to have that. Markowski and Ideus, they can play in the Big Eight."

Surles is the most publicized of the recruits. He comes from an extremely successful high school program, which produced former Temple star and current NBA player Mark Macon.



## COUNTING ON PIKE

Because of their lack of heighth this season, the Cornhuskers need to average about 25 three-point shots a game, Eric Piatkowski said.

Piatkowski admits he gets more excited about showtime than rehearsal. "I don't get into practice much," he said. "I like to play games."

Piatkowski is featured on the cover of Nebraska's 1993-94 media and recruiting guide. The cover's theme is: "Nebraska Basketball . . . where the talent runs as high as 'Pike's Peak.'"

Piatkowski is one of 25 players on the United States Basketball Writers Association preseason Player of the Year list. Basketball Weekly picked him as a seventh-team preseason All-American. The Sporting News Pro Basketball Yearbook rates him as the sixth-best shooting guard prospect for the 1994 NBA draft. He's also a candidate for the Wooden Award.

#### ALL TIED UP

The Danny Nee tie collection has been well-received, according to Gary Michael of Gary Michael's Clothiers. The brightly colored ties, fashioned of imported Italian silks, are being sold at Cornhusker home games as well as at three locations during the Christmas holidays: at Michael's store in Hastings, Neb., at the Crossroads Shopping Center in Omaha and in a bank plaza in Lincoln.

Michael said he sold 180 of the ties in the first two weeks at his Hastings store. The goal is to sell 1,000 by Christmas, he said, and he is optimistic about reaching that total.

### BROWN TO BE BULLY IN BIG EIGHT THIS YEAR

Husker women's coach Angela Beck is optimistic about the season. There is life after Karen Jennings, Beck said recently. That conviction is based, in part, on the return of Nafeesah Brown, a 6-foot-1 senior from Chicago. Beck predicts Brown will "beat up" the Big Eight.

During the preseason, Brown was "just outstanding," Beck said.

"I hope she's right," Brown said of Beck's prediction, acknowledging "it's different without Karen."

## AMERITAS CLASSIC - Lincoln, Neb.

### NEBRASKA 94, OHIO 68

Dec. 3, 1993 NEBRASKA 111, Portland 85 Dec. 4, 1993

After a couple of tough losses, 78-75 to Texas and 91-82 to Appalachian State, the Huskers got a much needed confidence booster with two wins over Ohio (94-68) and Portland (111-85) in the Ameritas Classic. The Huskers captured the title, their sixth straight, with the win in the finals over Portland, which had rallied from 16 points down to beat Navy 94-93.

Looking for some answers following the road loss to Appalachian State, Head Coach Danny Nee started his four seniors, Eric Piatkowski, Bruce Chubick, Jamar Johnson, Tom Best and his best defensive player, Erick Strickland. While it was still early in the season the Huskers felt a sense of urgency in winning at the classic.

"Obviously, if we screw around like we did at Appalachian State, we'll be staying home in March," Chubick told the Lincoln Journal-Star.

Nebraska did little messing around as it, on the strength of balanced scoring (Piatkowski, 16; Chubick, 15;, Johnson,

Portland

NEBRASK	(A vs	. Ohio							
Name	Min.	FgAtt.	3ptAtt	FtAtt.	Rb.	Bk.	A.	S	Tp.
Best	17	2-6	1-3	0-0	3	0	2	0	5
Piatkowski	24	5-10	4-6	2-2	3	1	5	1	16
Chubick	24	5-11	0-0	5-7	10	0	1	1	15
Johnson	26	7-8	0-1	1-1	1	1	8	2	15
Strickland	25	4-7	3-5	0-0	1	0	3	3	11
Jaeger	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	2
Boone	23	7-11	0-2	0-0	2	0	2	0	14
Glock	22	4-9	0-3	0-0	3	0	6	1	8
Moore	14	1-4	0-1	3-4	1	1	0	0	5
Brooks	22	1-3	0-2	1-2	4	0	6	2	3
<b>Team Totals</b>									
Nebraska		26-62	8-24	10-22	44	3	33	11	94
Ohio		37-72	6-22	12-16	44	3	14	4	68
NEBRASK	A vs.	Portla	nd						
Name	Min.	FgAtt.	3ptAtt	FtAtt.	Rb.	Bk.	A.	S	Tp.
Best	18	1-8	0-1	3-4	4	0	1	1	5
Chubick	22	5-6	0-0	5.6	7	1	0	1	15
Johnson	3-3	0-0	1-2	1-2	1	0	2	1	7
Strickland	24	5-8	1-4	1-2	7	1	8	3	12
Piatkowski	33	6-15	0-0	3-4	8	1	8	2	15
Boone	30	7-7	1-1	3-5	2	0	5	0	18
Glock	21	5-9	1-2	1-2	3	0	2	1	12
Moore	9	1-1	0-0	3-4	3	2	0	1	5
Brooks	21	5-6	0-0	0-0	5	0	3	1	10
Badgett	21	3-7	0-0	2-2	2	0	2	0	8
Team Totals									
Nebraska		43-74	3-9	22-31	49	5	31	5	111

15; and reserve Jaron Boone, 14) drove Ohio out of the Bob Devaney Center wondering what had hit it.

The Huskers relied on defense and caused Ohio to turn the ball over 24 times.

Nebraska used the momentum to its advantage as Portland was popped the next night. After going on an early 14-0 run, the Huskers never looked back. Nebraska hit nearly 58 percent of its shots from the field.

Boone once again showed being named to the Big Eight All-Freshman team a year ago was no fluke as he led the Huskers in scoring against Portland with 18. Piatkowski and Chubick both chipped in 15.

The win proved costly though as Johnson broke his right finger in the first half and will be out for three weeks. Johnson averaged 13 points and five assists over the Huskers' first five games.

Strickland, Chubick and Piatkowski were all named to the All-Tournament Team with senior Piatkowski receiving MVP honors. ■

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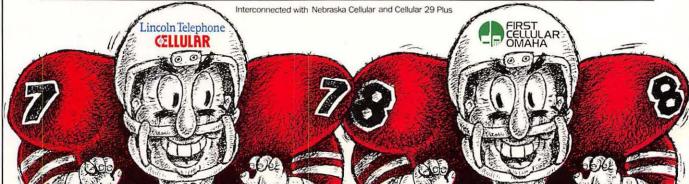


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"They don't need to all get 10 rebounds a game. They have to get seven or eight, night in and night out," Nee said. If they don't, rebounding "will be a weakness of the team, and that will cause us to

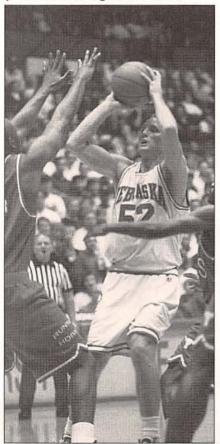
"It's that important. They can still do everything right, and we may not get it done, but our chances improve a lot if we're getting it done on the boards," he said.

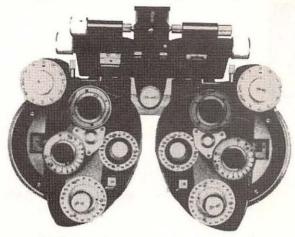
Before the opening games, Piatkowski predicted the Cornhuskers will get the job done.

"We feel we can challenge for the Big Eight this year. I really don't care if people keep saying, 'You don't have a big guy.' At the position we're at right now, we're a heck of a lot better and more together than we ever were last year, and that's going to make a world of difference as far as I'm concerned. If we stay together, it's going to be a great year."

Sophomore Erick Strickland echoed that sentiment after the loss against Texas. "I think we're going to win a lot of games and shock a lot of people. Things are going to happen for us," Strickland said.

Piatkowski (52) was on fire early in the season including a career-high 35 point performance against Texas.





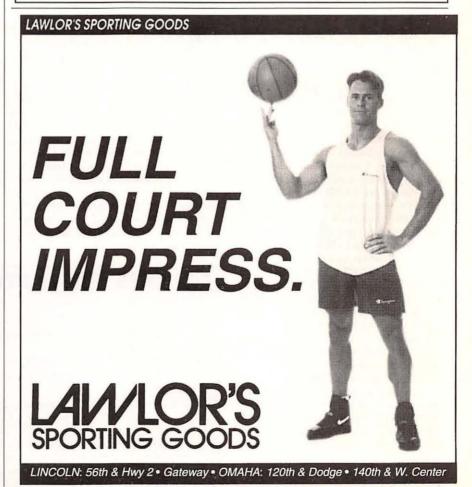
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## STUFF, STUFF, AND MORE STUFF

Equipment manager Glenn Abbott's job is one continuous struggle of keeping track of all of the stuff that is used to clothe, protect and clean 120 football players. With nearly 750 pairs of shoes, 700 jockstraps, 33 double jerseys and piles of towels and socks, this easily becomes a tough take to inventory.

Abbott makes his job more fun by collecting stuff from opponent's equipment managers. Over the past 10 years Abbott has obtained a helmet from every opponent. A total of 42 helmets line the top shelf of the equipment room with the schools including everyone from Miami to

Hawaii.

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A COACH?

Many fans think coaching would be fun except for the pressure involved.

Not many fans realize the amount of work involved. More than 99 percent of the work a coach does is off the field and much of that is hectic

and less than glorious.

For example, quarterback coach Turner Gill's weekend schedule the week of the Oklahoma State game was as follows. Immediately following the game, Turner drove from Stillwater to Dallas arriving at 3 a.m. He got up Friday morning and caught a 6:10 a.m. flight to New Orleans. In New Orleans Turner visited four high schools, looking at films of prospects, talking with coaches and reviewing transcripts.

Turner drove to Baton Rouge, La., in the afternoon and visited a school before driving to Lafayette, La., where he caught a 4:30 p.m. flight back to Dallas. In Big D, he went to two high school games Friday night before heading back to Lincoln.

Linebacker's coach Kevin Steele's weekend the week of the Kansas State game was not much better.

Steele began his Thursday in regular fashion attending coaches meetings from 7 a.m. to noon before drawing up a practice schedule from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Following a 3:15 p.m. practice, Steele left for Tampa, Fla.

Steele woke early the next morning after arriving at 1:35 a.m. to trav-

el an hour to the first of four local high schools he planned to visit. He arrived at the first school at 7:30 a.m. and made his rounds while taking in

a couple of practices.

Later in the afternoon, Steele caught a flight to Atlanta, Ga., where he watched two high school games before catching a later flight home. He arrived in Lincoln at 1:50 a.m. Saturday. Six hours later he was at the KSU pregame meeting at the Nebraska Center.

#### WALK-AROUND GETS NAME

Nebraska's new air-filled walkaround attraction that has gained popularity with Cornhusker fans young and old, finally has a name.

Submitted by Leo Ladely of Lincoln, Neb., the name "Lil' Red" was selected out of nearly 3,000 entries received in a contest.

A 7-year-old, second grader at Maude Rousseau School, Ladely received a Husker T-shirt and free tickets for his parents, Dan Ladely and Rebecca Hasty, and other family members to the Nebraska-Oklahoma game. His class will also receive tickets to a men's basketball game, women's basketball game or women's volleyball match depending upon the choice made and availability of tickets.

#### EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM

The Huskers are trying out a new approach to Bowl preparation this year.

The team voted to go to Miami about four days earlier than usual. Typically, the team goes down on Christmas day. This year they will leave on December 22, which will provide them with more time to become adjusted to the climate.

They have also found a new practice facility. The old practice facility was a 45 minute drive from the hotel. Practice would take up most of the day in years past because of the hassle of the drive.



Lil' Red

This year the Huskers will limit practices to the mornings, allowing players to have free time in the afternoons. They have also changed their pre-trip practice schedule this year as well. In years past they would take about 10 days off after the OU game, but this year they are practicing three days a week prior to leaving. The coaches hope this will enable the team to retain its timing and feel.

## AP VOTERS NOT AS SMART AS THEY THINK

The common sentiment of contempt on behalf of Husker fans toward the Associated Press this year is mostly due to the disrespect the AP has shown toward the Huskers in the AP poll throughout the season. Recently the AP has been further reviled by both Nebraskans and West Virginians for the AP's insistence on Florida State remaining No. 1 despite FSU's loss to Notre Dame. West Virginians in particular are miffed at being left out of the national championship game.

West Virginians have offered an analogy to expose the AP's wrongfulness. They have noted that up until this season, the college football

## COACHES' WIVES POP QUIZ

1) Which wife leaves her seat and heads downstairs under the west stadium at the first sign of trouble at any home game?

2) Which wife consistently exclaims, "Oh Shoot!" (or similar phrase) after a bad play?

3) Which wife nervously shreds her game programs into pom-poms?
4) Which wife said "admit it, we're lost" several times after the Kansas

game? 5) Which wives scream the most during a game?

**ENSTREES:** 1) Debby McBride, 2) Pam Solich, 3) Maureen Ross, 4) Nancy Osborne at Tom, Nancy and daughter Suzi explored the gravel backroads of Kansas and Nebraska in their van on the way home from Lawrence, 5) Sue Darlington and Nancy Osborne

regular season has been regarded by pollsters as a giant single elimination tournament, much like the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

In years past, if your team lost then they were out of the running, out of "the loop" so to speak. It didn't matter which team they lost to or where the game was played.

West Virginians argue that a Villanova, or a North Carolina State could never have won the NCAA Basketball Tournament if the so called "best team" had been allowed to take their place in the Final Four. They argue if UNLV, North Carolina or Indiana were beaten in the Sweet 16, the schools wouldn't get a second chance. So why should FSU?

#### A HUSKER HERO

Many Nebraskans brag about their die-hard loyalty to the Big Red and their willingness to travel near and far to see the Huskers play. Now, Japan has done the United States one better.

Hiro, a former exchange student at UNL, was an interpreter for the Huskers when they visited Tokyo last fall. When Hiro found out that Nebraska was ranked No. 1, he immediately scheduled a flight from Japan to Lincoln for the OU game. He arrived Nov. 23, visited the last couple of practices, watched the game and shared in the fervor expressed by his 76,000 brethren before returning to Japan on Nov. 27.

He is reportedly planning to make it to Miami.

## BENCH WARMERS DO THEIR PART

Where was the best place to be on the frozen tundra of Eastern Nebraska the day after Thanksgiving? That's right, Memorial Stadium. Where was the best place to stand in the ice box that same day? Next to one of the 17 spaceheaters lining the bench areas on the sidelines.

Great pains were taken to ensure that the competitors would remain in a thawed state for four hours. The heaters were fueled by nearly 2,000

pounds of propane fuel.

If you were watching the game on television you might have noticed a low, continuous roar in the background. The fans were loud, but what you were hearing was the synchronous voice of 17 heaters running at full blast. Fingers and toes on both sidelines benefitted, unlike the Colorado game of three years ago at Boulder when the heaters provided for the Nebraska sideline mysteriously quit working.

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LETTERS From page 7

#### **END THE ORANGE BOWL**

My wife and I, plus our extended family, have followed the Huskers all over the country including Hawaii. After the Iowa State game we expressed an interest to family and friends about going to the Orange Bowl. Ten different families replied with, "Miami is dirty and dangerous. If we have to play Miami or Florida State we won't go."

The Big Eight should end the agreement with the Orange Bowl. It is a shame when teams and fans can not go somewhere nice as a reward for a

good year.

Congratulations Huskers for winning the third Big Eight Championship in a row.

Jim Beckner Lee's Summit, Mo.

#### STILL GETTING NO RESPECT

As usual the Eastern dominated media has found a way to destroy Nebraska's reputation. No one in the media out here wants to recognize the fact that of Nebraska's last seven bowl games, three of its opponents were crowned national champs and the other four finished ranked second

nationally. Nor has it been recognized that Nebraska has been to 23 straight bowls and has had 25 straight winning seasons.

Politics and the so called experts have taken the fun out of following Nebraska football once again. Let's just hope this butchering of Nebraska does not influence another great season these young men have endured for themselves, their fans and their university.

Trent Scavio Asheville, N. C.

Nebraska deserves a shot at the national championship.

Nebraska is undefeated, has beaten three rated teams and has already played five bowl bound teams (UCLA, Colorado, Kansas State, Oklahoma and Texas Tech).

Everyone condemns Nebraska for their recent bowl loses. During NU's six-year skid in bowls (1988-93) they have played: Florida State (#2), Miami (#2), Florida State (#2), Miami (#1), Georgia Tech (#1), Miami (#2) and Florida State (#2). No team in the history of college football has played consecutive bowl games with teams of that caliber. Look it up.

It would have been nice to have been able to stay home, as Miami continually does, to play a No. 12 (an average of Nebraska's ranking at season's end over the past six seasons) opponent. It is really putting yourself out on a limb to play at home against a team ranked 10 spots below you, especially when you consider Nebraska could not have contended for the national championship if they had won any of those games. In most of those games, Nebraska was locked into the Orange Bowl because of winning the Big Eight. However, Miami could have traveled to another bowl to play a higher rated team. Oh yes, they did that in 1993 and were thumped by Alabama.

As far as Florida State is concerned, they had their chance. They blew it. Nebraska had their chance in 1982, but lost by three points to national champion Penn State at Penn State and in 1983, when they lost by one to national champion Miami. No second chance then and no second chances now.

Jim Bish Manassas, Va.

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## Overlooked Defense Kept Huskers' Perfect Record Intact

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That's right, defense.

"All of us are a little tired of having everything built around offense," Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said after Nebraska defeated Oklahoma 21-7 to complete its first undefeated, untied regular season since 1983.

He didn't try to hide his exasperation. Before the game, the defense committed itself to ensuring perfection, McBride said. The players decided, "we're going to win it. We've gone through this long enough."

Without that defensive resolve, the Cornhuskers might not have won, on a windswept and bitter-cold afternoon, which provided an appropriate backdrop for McBride's Black Shirts.

Nebraska's offense has never been so ineffective in victory during Tom Osborne's 21 seasons as head coach. The Cornhuskers, who ranked first in the nation in rushing offense and 14th in total offense, could gain only 179 yards against Oklahoma.

Nebraska managed only 122 yards rushing, a total that cost the Cornhuskers a third consecutive NCAA Division I-A rushing title.

To find comparable offensive performances by Nebraska, one has to turn to bowl games. The Cornhuskers gained only 171 yards in the 1992 Orange Bowl, and they gained only 135 yards in the 1989 Orange Bowl. Both games were against Miami, and Nebraska lost both times, 22-0 and 23-3.

The Cornhuskers' offensive production was nearly as bleak as the conditions under which the game was played. They picked up only four first downs during the first half.

"I wouldn't have given a plugged nickel at the middle of the second quarter for our chance to win the game because it looked like we were getting dominated on both sides of the ball," Osborne said. "To be 7-7 at halftime was kind of a major upset."

Nebraska's defense was directly



If the defense had not stepped up with the "We're going to win it" attitude, things might have gone Oklahoma's way.

responsible for the first-half tie. Rover Toby Wright set up the touchdown by intercepting a third-down pass by Cale Gundy at the Oklahoma 40-yard line and returning it to the Sooner 15.

The defense also played a key role in the Cornhuskers' two touchdowns during the fourth quarter.

Nebraska's play defensively was even more remarkable given the fact that on the game's ninth play from scrimmage, outside linebacker Trev Alberts suffered a dislocated right elbow and went to the sideline.

From the opening game to the next-to-last game, Alberts had been the heart of Nebraska's defense, according to McBride.

But suddenly, the Cornhusker Black Shirts found themselves without their emotional leader. Seeing Alberts injured was "scary," said defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers. "I thought to myself, 'This puts a little more responsibility on me.'"

Ramaekers said he, Alberts and strongside linebacker Ernie Beler, who was forced to miss the game because of a knee injury, "are three of the biggest loudmouths on the team, and I was the only one left."

Even so, the Cornhusker defense didn't lack for enthusiasm. "We've got to play with what's in here," McBride said, indicating his heart. "We're a bunch of little guys scrambling for some recognition. We lose one great player, and we send another in."

The player to whom McBride referred was junior Dwayne Harris, Albert's replacement. Harris, who was involved in sacks of Gundy on back-to-back plays, was named by ABC television as Nebraska's Player of the Game.

It was a strange fit, Nebraska dressed in defense. During Osborne's tenure as coach, the Cornhuskers have been characterized by offense.

In fact, what was probably Osborne's most-remembered team to date, the one in 1983, illustrated that characterization best. The 1983 team, whose thematic identity was "the Scoring Explosion," came up short of winning the mythical national title because of its defense. Or so many have argued in the last 10 years.

Oklahoma had 200 of its 294 total yards by halftime. Gundy, who had just been named the first-team All-Big Eight quarterback by the Associated Press, finished with only eight pass completions in 22 attempts.

"No way would I have wanted to play against our defense, and I play against them all the time," Cornhusker I-back Calvin Jones said.

Alberts smiled, despite his injury, as he watched the defense perform. "It made me smile," he said. "I knew we'd win. I could see it in their (his teammates') eyes."

It was a good day to play defense, a good day, indeed. Nebraska? Defense? Alberts liked the sound of it

"We don't score touchdowns or rush for thousands of yards," he said. "But we're part of the deal."

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